Filipinos to bid for Juan Luna at Christie's auction

Story below, COL. 2

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IN *Saturday Special*

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Hijacked by terror, Apec faces dilemma

Free trade takes back seat in summit

CABO SAN LUCAS, Mexico—How to open borders to trade while closing them to terrorists.

This is an urgent global dilemma that senior government ministers and corporations tackled here Thursday before the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit of leaders begins.

The parallel meetings of ministers from 21 countries and of executives from 400 companies—as well as the violence that hit nations of the Apec forum—left no doubt that the realms of finance and diplomacy have merged.

"Terrorism, in all its forms, is a threat to economic stability in Apec, as well as a threat to regional peace and security, and a direct challenge to Apec's vision of free, open and prosperous economies," Apec foreign and economic ministers said in a joint declaration.

Just down the road, sipping drinks in plush hotel lobbies, business leaders discussed the same challenges—and came to many of the same conclusions.

"You can't trade in an insecure world," said Nelson Cunningham, managing director of the Washington consulting firm Kissinger McLarty Associates. "Apec has been hijacked by the terrorists."

For the second year in a row, terrorism overtook free trade as

HIJACKED/ A19

STEALING a march on her presidential rivals, President Macapagal on Friday "gifts" Fil-Americans in Hawaii, her first stopover on her way to Mexico, with the absentee voting bill recently passed by both Houses of Congress.
JERRY N. CARUAL/ MALACAÑANG PHOTO

Gloria woos absentee votes in Hawaii

By Leah Makabenta

HONOLULU, Hawaii—If the absentee voting law is indeed as crucial to the presidential race in 2004 as many believe, President Macapagal-Arroyo has just stolen a march on her rivals by bringing the bill as a gift to the Filipino-American community in Hawaii.

The President, who arrived here early Thursday on her way to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit of leaders, struck all three themes of her week-long trip away from a bomb-weary Philippines—counter-terrorism and security, investments and touching base with Filipinos in the United States.

Ms Macapagal is visiting Honolulu at a time when the Filipino community is in the thick of preparations for the celebration of the centennial in 2006 of the coming of the first Filipino settlers here consisting of *sacadas*, or plantation workers.

The state of Hawaii has one of the largest concentrations of Filipinos in the United States, numbering more than a quarter of a million.

On her way to and from the Apec meetings in Los Cabos, Mexico, Ms Macapagal will also be meeting with Filipino community representatives in Los Angeles, San Diego and San Francisco.

In a day of revolving-door meetings in her Hilton Hotel suite yesterday, the President talked tuna exports with Democratic Sen. Daniel Inouye, reiterated the US-Philippine security and defense partnership with the commander in chief of the US Pacific Command, Adm. Thomas Fargo, and renewed ties with Hawaii's No. 1 Filipino-American, Gov. Benjamin Cayetano.

At a press conference, the President said the United States and the Philippines had what she

GLORIA/ A19

MILF vows to hunt down top suspect in bus blast

By Carlito Pablo and TJ Burgonio

THE MORO Islamic Liberation Front has promised to help hunt down the prime suspect in the Oct. 18 bus bombing in Balintawak, Quezon City, President Macapagal-Arroyo's adviser for special concerns said yesterday.

Secretary Norberto Gonzales said Al Haj Murad, MILF vice chair for military affairs, made the promise to him during a meeting Thursday in Kuala Lumpur. "Murad said (Muklis) Yunos is a former member of the MILF and even had training in the Afghan war," he said in a phone interview.

Gonzales said Murad had denied that the MILF was coddling Yunos, whom the official of the secessionist group supposedly described as "having gone into

MILF/ A20

Raided smut tabloids not mine–Pichay

By Michael Lim Ubac

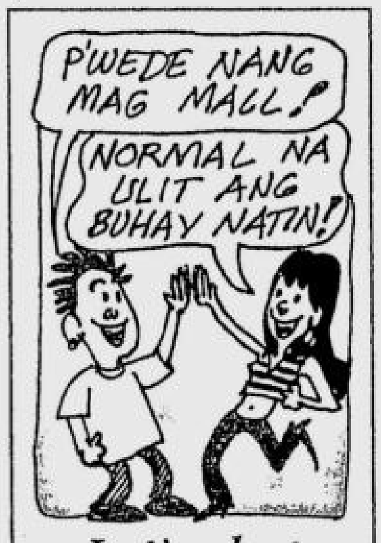
SURIGAO del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay said he was not the owner of a publishing house in Quezon City that government agents raided Thursday night for publishing smut tabloids.

Pichay, chair of the House defense committee, said the story on the raid, which came out in the INQUIRER yesterday, "besmirched" his reputation and that of his family in "one unfair blow."

"It is only proper that you make your own investigation and if your reporter cannot substantiate his malicious charge, that I be rendered a public apology," he said in a statement. The story named him owner of Sunny Publishing House, which prints Toro, Bosero, Toro 2nayt and Bosero 2nayt.

"My present interest in media is confined to the dzME AM Radio. Previously, I owned four legitimate, gen-

RAIDED/ A6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NORMAL NA ULIT ANG BUHAY NATIN!

Let's shop and party, cops urge

By TJ Burgonio

POLICE now want the public to get a life despite the bomb scare.

In an interview with reporters, police Community Relations Director Ricardo de Leon assured the people that security had been doubled and marshals fielded in crowded places like shopping malls and bars to thwart any terrorist attack.

De Leon's appeal was a complete turnaround from an earlier police warning to

LET'S/ A19

Chechen rebs free 8 kids, but not foreigners

MOSCOW—Gunmen holding hundreds of hostages in a Moscow theater released eight children on Friday afternoon, accompanied by representatives of the Red Cross, but the reported promise to free about 75 foreign hostages remained unfulfilled hours after it was to have taken place.

The count of how many hostages were still in the theater ranged from 600 up to 800, and 39 had earlier been released. The hostage-takers have demanded that Russian forces withdraw from Chechnya, the southern Muslim province that has been mired in war for much of the last decade.

The children, dressed in winter coats and one of them clutching a stuffed bear toy, appeared to be

CHECHEN/ A7

МОСКВА,
ул. МЕЛЬНИКОВА

FEMALE hostages as shown on Russian TV are guarded by a female Chechen rebel (at right) with an explosive taped around her waist, which is wired to a small button she carries in her hand. AFP

IT'S CURTAINS for an unnamed woman hostage being brought out of a theater in Moscow. AP

Filipinos to bid for Juan Luna at Christie's auction

By Juliet L. Javellana

TWO Filipino families have sent representatives to Hong Kong to bid for Juan Luna's "Parisian Life" at the Christie's auction on Sunday, informed sources told the INQUIRER.

The sources expressed hope a Filipino would win the bidding for the 110-year-old Luna, Lot 62 in Christie's auction of Southeast Asian art, so that it would remain in the Philippines despite the decision of its owners to sell it. "There are Filipinos who are very much interested in the painting," one of the sources, who asked not to be named, said.

He also would not identify the interested buyers.

The National Museum was expecting the Luna to arrive yesterday from Hong Kong after it asked Christie's to return the painting because it was taken out of the country without the necessary permits.

Deputy Director Cecilio Salcedo, who is also chief of the National Museum's Cultural Properties Division, said the painting had not arrived as of 5 p.m. yesterday.

Salcedo said the National Museum would ask the owners of the Luna to register it and apply for an export permit if they want to go ahead with the sale.

Salcedo had earlier said that the museum could not stop the sale of the 1892 Luna painting because it was neither listed as a national cultural treasure nor an important cultural property.

He said it was simply considered a "cultural property" on account of it being over than 100 years old, and thus only the signature of the director of the National Museum is required for it to be taken out of the country.

FILIPINOS/ A6

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers..
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/26/02

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

5 suspects in Zambo blast charged

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE FIVE suspected Abu Sayyaf members implicated in the deadly bomb explosions in Zamboanga City were formally charged yesterday before the regional trial court there.

Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño charged Bas Ismael, Abduljamin Asanul, Madznul Ladja, Rajak Sagomayan and Buyongan Bongkak with violation of Republic Act 1866, or illegal possession of firearms, ammunition and explosives.

State Prosecutor Ruben Zacarias, who conducted the inquest, said he could not as yet file murder charges against the five, "but the investigation (by police) is ongoing."

Asked whether more charges would be filed soon, he said: "It will depend (on) the availability of the evidence."

In separate charge sheets, the five men aged 18 to 27 were held liable for "conspiring, confederating and helping one another" in committing the crime.

Zuño, who filed the charges based on the recommendation of Zacarias and State Prosecutor Misael Ladaga, said the five "knowingly had in their possession, custody and control... firearms and explosives without first securing the necessary permit from the proper authorities."

But Zacarias said the charges were bailable.

Government agents caught Ismael, Asanul, Ladja and Sagomayon allegedly while in possession of firearms and explosives during a police raid Wednesday on Room 2 of the Milan boarding house in Apolinario Loop, Guian, Zamboanga.

A .45 cal Colt pistol with seven live bullets, a hand grenade, a .45 cal Remington pistol with seven live bullets, three plastic bags containing bomb components and an undetermined quantity of a white substance, and a Coke liter bottle containing a liquid were seized from them.

Bongkak was allegedly in possession of a hand grenade when government agents raided his boarding house on Tomas Claudio Street in Zamboanga.

Zacarias said that under Presidential Decree 1866, those charged with illegal possession of explosives could post bail of P200,000, and those charged with possession of firearms, P80,000.

He said the five men, who were arrested at 12:40 p.m. Wednesday, were subjected to an inquest at 10 p.m. on the same day.

Zacarias said the five did not seek a preliminary investigation prior to the filing of the charges.

"An arrested suspect has a right to ask for a preliminary investigation. He can also waive this right. In this case, they did (not invoke this right), so we proceeded with the inquest," Zacarias said.

The Associated Press quoted Prosecutor Roberto Lao as saying that two alleged leaders of the militant group Jemaah Islamiah had been charged with helping to buy more than a ton of TNT in Mindanao—explosives supposedly intended for use in bombing US and Israeli embassies in Singapore last year.

Lao said the two accused—Faiz Bin Abu Bakar Bafana of Malaysia and Riduan Isamudin of Indonesia—were added to a list of six other suspects already charged with conspiring to buy the 50 boxes of explosives.

The pair were implicated by another Indonesian, explosives expert Fathur Rohman Al-Ghozi, who was arrested in Manila in January, according to court documents filed Thursday in a regional trial court in General Santos City.

With an AP report

Airport builder to sue gov't

BERLIN—The operator of Frankfurt airport, continental Europe's biggest, may sue the Philippine government for damages over a new terminal it is helping to build at Manila airport, the firm's chief executive said in remarks published Friday.

Fraport AG has invested $370 million in the development of the new international terminal under a contract signed with the previous Philippine administration. The terminal is to open at the end of this year. Fraport owns 30 percent of Piatco, the company set up to build and operate it.

Fraport and the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo are discussing a deal for the government to buy back the terminal and give Fraport a management contract chief executive Wilhelm Bender told the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung.

But Bender said authorities also are weighing changes to the existing contract that will make the terminal uneconomical and make international investors hesitant to invest in the southeast Asian country.

NEWSBRIEFS

Kiwis warned on RP travel

NEW Zealanders were warned yesterday to exercise caution in the Philippines and not to travel to several parts of the country. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said there had been an upsurge of bombings in the Philippines and a history of terrorism, insurgency and kidnappings. Travelers were told to stay alert and take sensible precautions in Manila. The ministry advised against all travel to the Sulu Archipelago including Basilan and southern and western Mindanao. It advised against all but essential travel to Maguindanao, Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur, North and South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Palawan and Zamboanga. New Zealand became the sixth country in just two weeks to issue an advisory on travel to the Philippines.

Norman Bordadora

NPAs attack phone station

LOON, Bohol—Eight communist rebels attacked a mobile phone relay station here late Wednesday night. New People's Army gunmen ransacked a mobile phone station in Barangay Song-on and blasted the transformer of the local electrical utility, causing a power outage. The group said the raid was being carried out because the mobile phone company had not agreed to their demands, apparently referring to extortion threats, the military said.

Chito A. Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau and AFP

Blasting caps found in bus

A PACKAGE of blasting caps and detonating cord was found on a bus in Metro Manila despite tight security imposed after a series of bomb blasts, police said Friday. Anti-narcotics police were checking the vehicle in a bus terminal late Thursday when they found the explosive material inside a bag left in the bus, said Insp. Julius Guadamor. The bus, which was scheduled to go to Albay province, was searched for clues.

AFP

Serge to sue 2 Cabinet men

SEN. Serge Osmeña yesterday said he would file graft charges before the Office of the Ombudsman against Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and Energy Secretary Vicente Perez for their failure to stop the alleged overpayment made by the government to an Argentinian firm that is rehabilitating a power plant in Laguna. Camacho is the chairman of the board of the National Power Corp. and the Board of Transco while Perez is vice chair of both boards. Also to be charged were former and incumbent officials led by former Napocor president Federico Puno and his successor, Orlando Quilala.

Cynthia D. Balana

Caltex hikes prices anew

CALTEX (Philippines) Inc. raised prices of gasoline and kerosene by 30 centavos per liter and diesel by 20 centavos effective midnight Friday.

Petron Corp. said its management has not yet advised a price increase while Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. said it would decide on Monday.

Small oil firms like Seaoil Petroleum Corp. and Flying V said they would raise pump prices after the Big Three—Petron, Shell and Caltex—have all moved their prices. Eastern Petroleum Corp. said it would match Caltex's prices starting 6 a.m. Sunday.

Caltex officials cited the big disparity in international and local prices, aside from pressures affecting supply and demand, competition and conditions in the local market.

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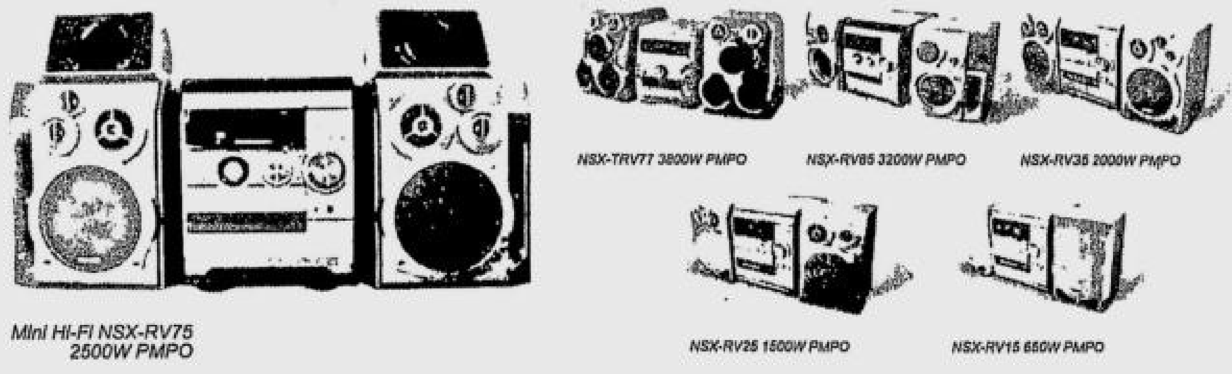

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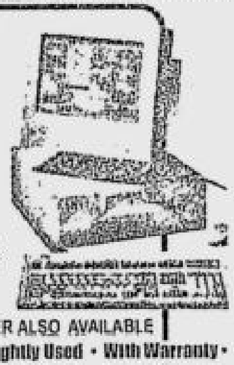

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GMA rules out Indon's release

President Macapagal-Arroyo has ruled out releasing alleged Indonesian terrorist Agus Dwikarna to the Indonesian government.

According to National Security Adviser Roilo Golez, the President wants Dwikarna to serve his 17-year jail sentence here.

"She has decided to keep him here. She wants to keep him here because of that court conviction," Golez said yesterday.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez has said that two Cabinet members have recommended that Dwikarna be released to court Indonesia's favor.

Perez did not name them, but presidential adviser for special concerns Norberto Gonzales is reportedly one of them.

Gonzales reportedly pointed out that Dwikarna is a ranking official of an influential political party in Indonesia. *Dona Z. Pazzibugan*

RP-US war exercises end

US and Philippine troops yesterday ended two weeks of military exercises aimed at forging closer operational ties and increasing preparedness to deal with terrorist threats.

Philippine Air Force Maj. Gen. Cicero Castellano, speaking at the closing ceremonies at the former US Clark air base, said both sides gained "a remarkable level of preparedness" and cited the Philippine armed forces' need to form a "rapid deployment force" in the light of new terrorist threats.

About 480 Filipino Air Force, Army and Marine troops and some 800 US Marines based in Okinawa, Japan, were involved in the exercise, dubbed Talon Vision 02, the largest joint training since a six-month counterterrorism exercise involving 1,200 Americans ended in southern Mindanao in July.

US Marine Col. Gordon C. O'Neil, co-director of the exercise, said it had been "a great success," partly due to bilateral planning that started a year ago.

"The most significant key to success has been the spirit and enthusiasm of our Filipino and American warriors who trained hard together everyday in the field, in the air and on the flight line," he said.

The training involved helicopter night-flying, live-fire drills, jungle survival, combined fixed-wing and helicopter air support, parachuting, resupply training, surveillance and insertion and extraction of combat troops using assault helicopters.

The exercise was held in Pampanga and Nueva Ecija and is one of at least 18 training maneuvers held jointly by the two countries in the Philippines each year, including the major "Balikatan" or "shoulder-to-shoulder" exercise that involves more than 4,000 American and Filipino troops. *AP*

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Amoxicillin Suspension 250 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	49.00	Mebendazole Suspension 100 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	23.00
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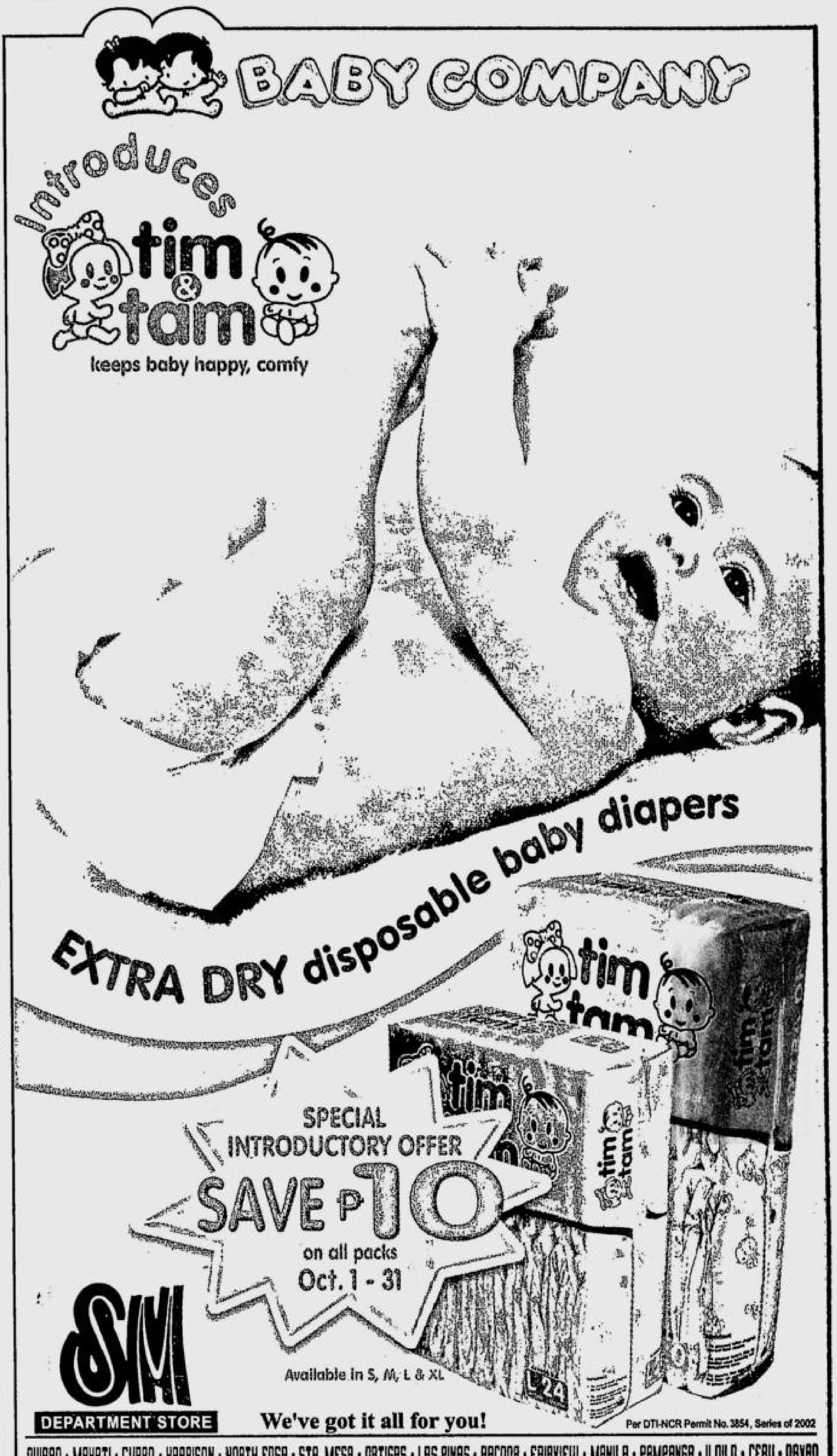

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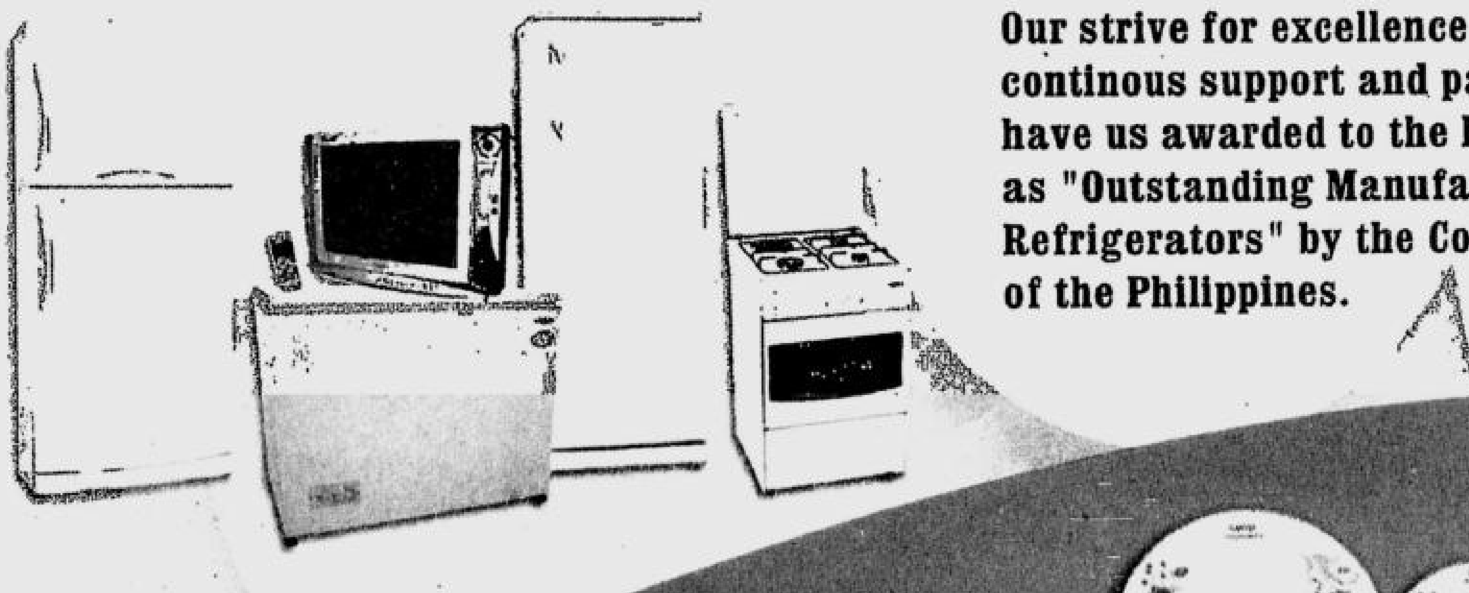

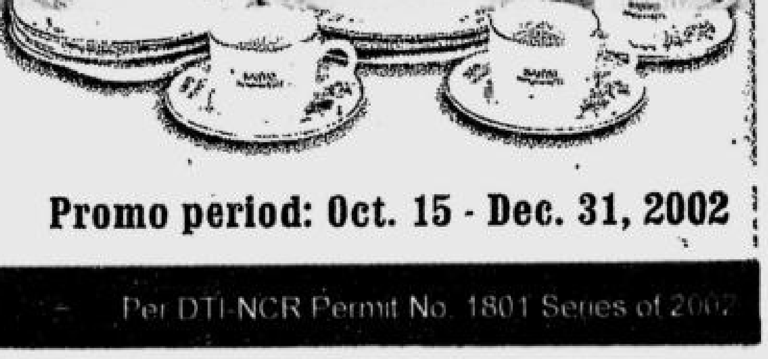

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Dirty tricksters pit Ping vs Roy in poison letter sent to Palace

By C. Pablo

PURVEYORS of dirty tricks have struck again, this time riding on the rash of bombings that recently hit Zamboanga City, North Cotabato and Metro Manila.

Through mail, the tricksters sent Malacañang-based reporters a one-page note that linked opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson to the spate of bomb scare that followed the bombings this month.

Printed in large characters, the message read: "Simple math. Bomb scare + Lacson = Destabilization."

The supposed sender of the envelop was "Roilo Golez. National Security Council. Quezon City."

The letter was sent through the Central Post Office in Manila.

When sought for comment, Golez vehemently disowned the letter.

"That is a concoction of someone who wants small-minded people to 'quarrel," said Golez, the national security adviser.

Golez said he and Lacson had no reason to quarrel over the hoax.

Golez also said that he does not intend to find out who was behind the prank.

"I have bigger problems to handle," Golez said.

Tagud joins foes: They won't quit

By Volt Contreras

THE PUBLIC Estates Authority director who exposed a P600-million alleged road project scam now shares something in common with other PEA officials he sued for plunder early this month.

Sulficio Tagud Jr. is also defying a Malacañang order for all PEA directors to resign out of delicadeza.

In an interview yesterday, Tagud said his resignation at this point "may hamper my access to additional documents for the plunder complaint," which he along with 15 civil society groups filed with the Ombudsman on Oct. 3.

He said he is staying put as PEA director upon his lawyers' advice. They are set to file next week an amended complaint that will expand the charge's coverage and list of respondents.

On Wednesday, Tagud and his supporters announced that they are "gathering evidence" against members of the "old PEA Board."

They claimed the former board members also violated bidding procedures for the now controversial President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard project.

They are also impleading officials of the Government Service Insurance System who approved a P1.1-billion loan to PEA under "questionable" circumstances.

Tagud's co-complainants included Bayan, the Council on Philippine Affairs, Plunderwatch and Courage.

Earlier, these groups questioned why Tagud should be also be forced to resign when he was the one who blew the whistle on the alleged PDMA scam

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MARINES TRANSFER

Cost-cutting, not coup talks–Palace

COST-CUTTING, and not talks of a coup d'etat, was behind President Macapagal-Arroyo's order to transfer the Marines headquarters from Makati City to Zamboanga City, her spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said yesterday.

Tiglao told radio station dzAR that the President thought having the Marines near the area of conflict would cut expenses. But she also does not want to inconvenience the soldiers and their families, he said.

Ms Macapagal on Wednesday ordered the transfer to Zamboanga City so the soldiers could be easily deployed against the Abu Sayyaf.

But because the Marines themselves have protested, Malacañang is backtracking.

Tiglao noted that "deploying the Marines often to Mindanao entails big expenses."

"So the President wants to save on costs. At the same time (she thinks) the Marines can react quickly if they are in Mindanao," he said.

He dismissed speculations that the transfer was meant to thwart any Marines-led coup attempt.

"Coup talks are very much passe. It's like discussing if Elvis Presley is alive or not," he said.

Tiglao said the President would "study" her order well because she was also thinking of the welfare of the Metro Manila-based soldiers and their families. *Dona Pazzibugan*

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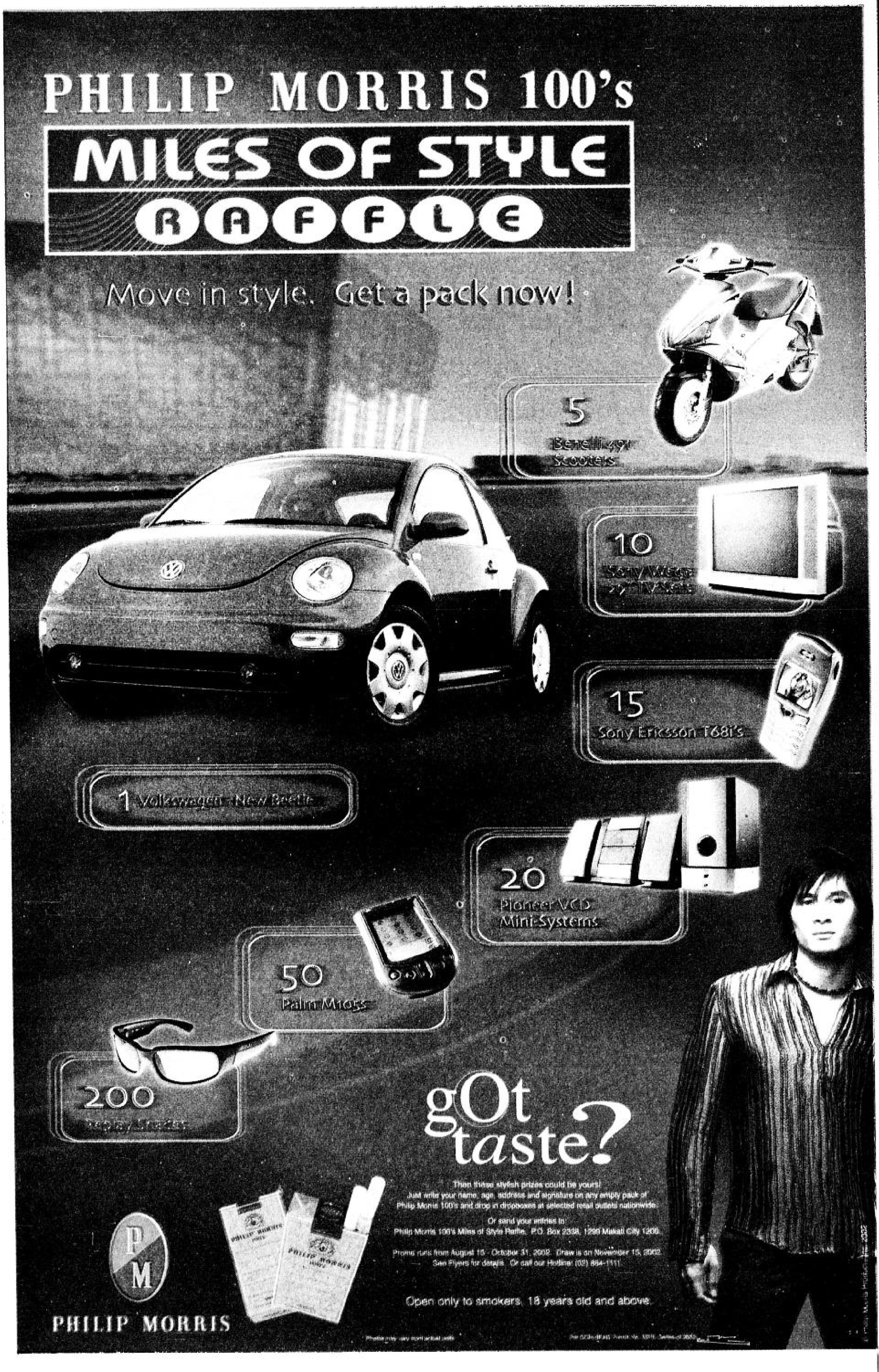

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Filipinos to bid for Juan Luna at Christie's auction

From page A1

Salcedo said the owners of the painting did not secure an export permit, prompting the museum to ask the auction house to return the painting before selling it.

Salcedo said that once the owners comply with the documentation, the painting would be returned to Christie's for the auction on Sunday.

Shock, sadness

The Nakpil heirs of Katipunan benefactor, Dr. Ariston Bautista Lin, who originally owned the painting, have expressed shock and sadness over the sale.

Francisca Nakpil-de Lange, 96, and her sister Mercedes Nakpil-Zialcita, 88, told the INQUIRER in an interview on Tuesday that the painting should not be sold because it belongs to the Nakpil clan and is part of the Filipino heritage.

The Nakpil sisters are daughters of Gregorio de Jesus and Julio Nakpil, Bautista's brother-in-law. The Bautista couple had invited the Julio Nakpils to live with them. Because the Bautista were childless, the Nakpils inherited his house in Quiapo including the Luna and his other collection of paintings.

Julio had another brother, Ramon. A descendant of the Ramon Nakpil family is reportedly the one selling the painting "as part of his inheritance."

Nakpils sought interview

It was the Nakpil family who sought an interview with the INQUIRER to express their position on the painting.

A letter sent to the INQUIRER supposedly written by Mercedes Nakpil-Zialcita denied what she told the INQUIRER during the interview, which was witnessed by other family members, who wrote the INQUIRER that its story was "100-percent accurate based on her interview with the Nakpil sisters ..."

It was in fact Mercedes Nakpil-Zialcita who said she was "aghast" that the painting was being sold. She never said in the interview that her "cousin's heirs have a right to sell the painting" as his "share of his inheritance."

The Concerned Artists of the Philippines and the Heritage Conservation Society lamented the impending sale of the Luna.

Trixie Cruz-Angeles, executive director of HCS, said the National Museum should be empowered to fully implement the law protecting cultural properties.

"The politicking surrounding the personalities who questioned the sale is irrelevant," she said in a press statement.

How it all began

Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta had questioned the objection to the Luna sale raised by Kim Camacho, wife of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho. Mrs. Camacho's point was the painting is over a hundred years old and its sale violated the law.

Oreta pointed out that Mrs.Camacho should not interfere in the business of the Bureau of Customs, an agency under her husband's jurisdiction. Also, Mrs. Camacho represents another famed auction house, Sotheby's, a rival of Christie's.

Culture laws like traffic laws

Cruz-Angeles said the Bureau of Customs "must pay closer attention to cultural property that routinely leaves the country."

"Finally, we rarely know what we have until we lose it; the Luna painting is only one example," she said.

She said cultural property is "stolen from museums and churches and homes, while antique houses and buildings are routinely destroyed."

"Our cultural protection laws are like our traffic laws, observed more in the breach or completely unknown and unenforced. Time to take action," Cruz-Angeles said.

"We cannot depend on President GMA's administration to be decisive on matters such as the sale of a Juan Luna painting," said Alexander Umali, board member of the CAP.

"It has consistently been stingy with funds for arts and culture, a reflection that, for the national government, arts and culture is not of national interest," Umali said.

Time to act

Umali said many cultural artifacts have "reached a pathetic state" through the years.

"With globalization's unhampered momentum, everything in our country is up for sale: our tribal lands, government corporations, mineral resources, our women, our cheap labor, our dignity. And now, the highest bidder aims his investment for a Luna painting," Umali said.

"While the floodgates of the international market remain wide open, we stand to lose not only this Luna painting," he added.

He said the future generation would be "condemned to perpetual ignorance for we have denied them the opportunity to glimpse into the history of our nation."

"We cannot allow the past to be just a blank stare, for the future will emerge into nothingness. There is still time. We must act now," he said.

Raided ...

From page A1

eral-circulation tabloid newspapers: Remate, Remate Tonite, Pinoy and Tribune. Remate survives to this day under new management, and I understand it remains the third-leading tabloid in terms of circulation," Pichay said.

Led by Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida, agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) raided the Sunny Publishing at No. 3 Boston St., Cubao, Quezon City. They were armed with a search warrant issued by the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 93.

Arrested during the raid were encoders, writers, layout artists, strippers and printing press employees. Confiscated were several copies of the four tabloids, computer units, diskettes, printers and scanners, and printing press parts.

The NBI is now hunting down the owner of the publishing house. Calida said NBI officials were set to ask the Quezon City Regional Trial Court yesterday to issue an arrest warrant against Sunny Mallari, reportedly the owner and publisher of Sunny Publishing.

"We will ask the court to immediately issue an arrest warrant upon the filing of criminal charges against Mallari," Calida said. The NBI Criminal Investigation Division headed by lawyer Sixto Comi has also implicated Vilma Manzo, an official of the publishing house, and the entire editorial staff.

Calida said the NBI had to release the encoders, writers, lay-out artists, strippers and printing press employees because "only the owners, publisher and editors could be held liable under Article 201 of the Revised Penal Code." The law prohibits the publication and sale of obscene materials.

Press freedom advocate

In his statement, Pichay said malicious insinuations that he previously published smut publications were untrue. "I can only surmise that my vigorous defense of the constitutional freedoms of the press and of expression in various forums may have caused me to be unfairly linked to this issue," he said.

Pichay said that while he was a staunch advocate of press freedom, "I am against so-called news publications that trade exclusively on sex and pornographic content and with no intrinsic contribution to journalism."

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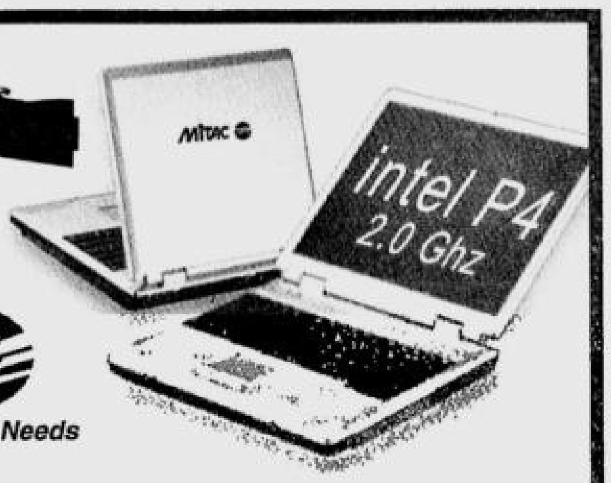

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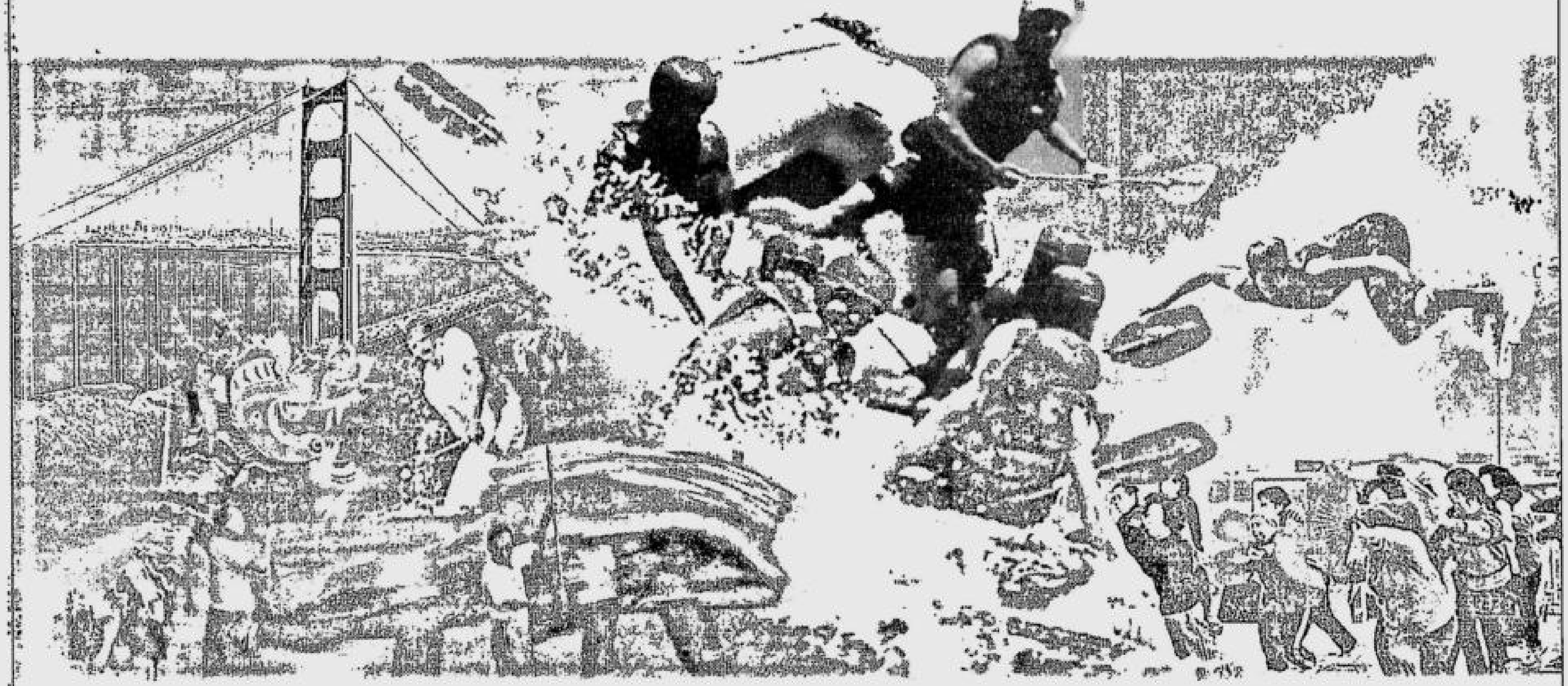

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Chechen rebels free 8 kids

From page A1

in good health. They appeared to be between about 7 and 13 years old.

Russia's Interfax news agency quoted Dmitry Rogozin, chairman of the Russian parliament's international affairs committee, as saying "the children were released without any conditions."

Hopes for a major break in the crisis rose Friday morning with the report that all the foreign hostages would be released, but officials said negotiations broke down and hours passed with no reported progress.

"We're very concerned that no other hostages have been freed and that the terrorists are not prepared to discuss the release of other hostages," US Ambassador Alexander Vershbow told reporters minutes after the children were freed.

The reason for the breakdown was not specified. Alexander Zharkov, head of the Russian Red Cross, said earlier that copies of the passports of some of the hostages had been given to the gunmen.

The hostages include Americans, Britons, Dutch, Australians, Austrians and Germans, and embassies were requested to send representatives to the scene to meet their freed citizens, Federal Security Service spokesperson Sergei Ignatchenko said.

'Keen on dying'

The Chechen gunmen pledged to die if their demands aren't met, heightening tension in the Russian capital and sharpening the dread tormenting captives and their helpless relatives on the gray streets outside.

President Vladimir Putin declared that the audacious raid was planned by terrorists based outside Russia, and the Qatar-based satellite TV channel Al-Jazeera broadcast statements by some of the estimated 50 hostage-takers who stormed the theater in a run-down southeast Moscow neighborhood Wednesday night just before the second act of a musical.

"I swear by God we are more keen on dying than you are keen on living," a black-clad male said in the broadcast. "Each one of us is willing to sacrifice himself for the sake of God and the independence of Chechnya."

"Even if we are killed, thousands of brothers and sisters will come after us, ready to sacrifice themselves," a female covered in a black robe except for her eyes said on the tape, which Al-Jazeera said was believed to have been recorded Wednesday—the day the extraordinary raid brought the war in Chechnya some 1,400 km north to the Russian capital.

The hostage-taking occurred just 4.5 km from the Kremlin and was a bitter blow for Putin, who repeatedly has said the country has the situation under control in Chechnya.

In televised remarks, Putin described the hostage-taking as one of the largest terror attacks in history and claimed it had been planned "in one of the foreign terrorist centers" which "made a plan and found the perpetrators." He didn't provide evidence that the raid was organized abroad.

The UN Security Council strongly condemned the raid, calling it a "heinous act" of international terrorism and a threat to peace and security. In a one-page resolution adopted unanimously, the council demanded the "immediate and unconditional release of all hostages."

2 females escape

As distraught relatives waited behind police barricades, the afternoon release of five hostages and the meeting of two Russian lawmakers with the captors briefly raised hopes for a bloodless finish, but tensions later rose when the body of a woman shot to death by the gunmen was wheeled out of the theater and rocket-propelled grenades were fired from the building.

The grenades were fired at two young female hostages who managed to escape, Moscow police spokesperson Kirill Mazurin said, according to the Itar-Tass news agency.

On Thursday, in one of several negotiation efforts, prominent liberal parliament member Irina Khakamada and lawmaker Iosif Kobzon—who is also a singer beloved by Chechens—spoke with the captors and one of them had promised that citizens of countries "not at war with Chechnya" would be released, Itar-Tass reported.

"We are safe and sound, it's warm and we have water and there's nothing else we need in a situation like this," Anna Adrianova, one of the hostages, told Ekho Moskvy radio early Friday. She said the hostages were pleading with Russia's leaders for the situation to be resolved immediately—but without the use of force.

But another hostage said the situation was tense inside the theater, and that conditions were growing worse as the captives hadn't received food or water and been using the theater's orchestra pit as a toilet.

Yelena Malyonkina, spokesperson for the Nord-Ost musical that was being staged in the theater, said she spoke to a captive official from the production, Anatoly Glazychev, who told her that a bomb was placed in the center of the theater and all the aisles and stage were mined.

"Both the terrorists and hostages are nervous," Glazychev said, according to Malyonkina.

A hot water pipe burst overnight and was flooding the ground floor, Ignatchenko said, but the terrorists called it a "provocation" and no agreement had been reached on sending repairmen into the building.

Still, Ignatchenko said some of the hostages were starting to sympathize with their captors' cause and calling relatives from mobile phones to ask them to stage anti-war demonstrations in Moscow.

A group of about 100 protesters arrived near the theater as dawn broke Friday carrying banners and chanting anti-war slogans, pushing against metal barriers police were using to close off the scene. Several said they were responding to requests to protest in calls from relatives.

Shot in chest

On Thursday, one young female hostage was shot in the chest, the only known fatality during the siege, supposedly for trying to move around inside the theater after the attackers carried out their raid Wednesday night. Unable to identify her, police were publicizing her description through Russian media.

In footage filmed early Friday by Russia's NTV, whose correspondents were allowed to accompany a doctor inside the theater, three male captors—in camouflage and carrying Kalashnikov-style rifles—were seen sitting in what appeared to be a kitchen. Two wore black masks and the other with his face exposed was identified by NTV as the group's leader, Movsar Barayev, nephew of rebel warlord Arbi Barayev, who reportedly died last year.

Two women, part of the gang of hostage-takers, wore robes with Arabic printed on their hoods. Only their eyes were exposed, and they were cradling pistols against their chests. Both appeared to have explosives wrapped in tape around their waists, with the packages wired to a small button they carried in their hands.

The captors made no comments in the footage shown, which also later included a brief clip of a group of six women hostages guarded by one of the female attackers. *AP*

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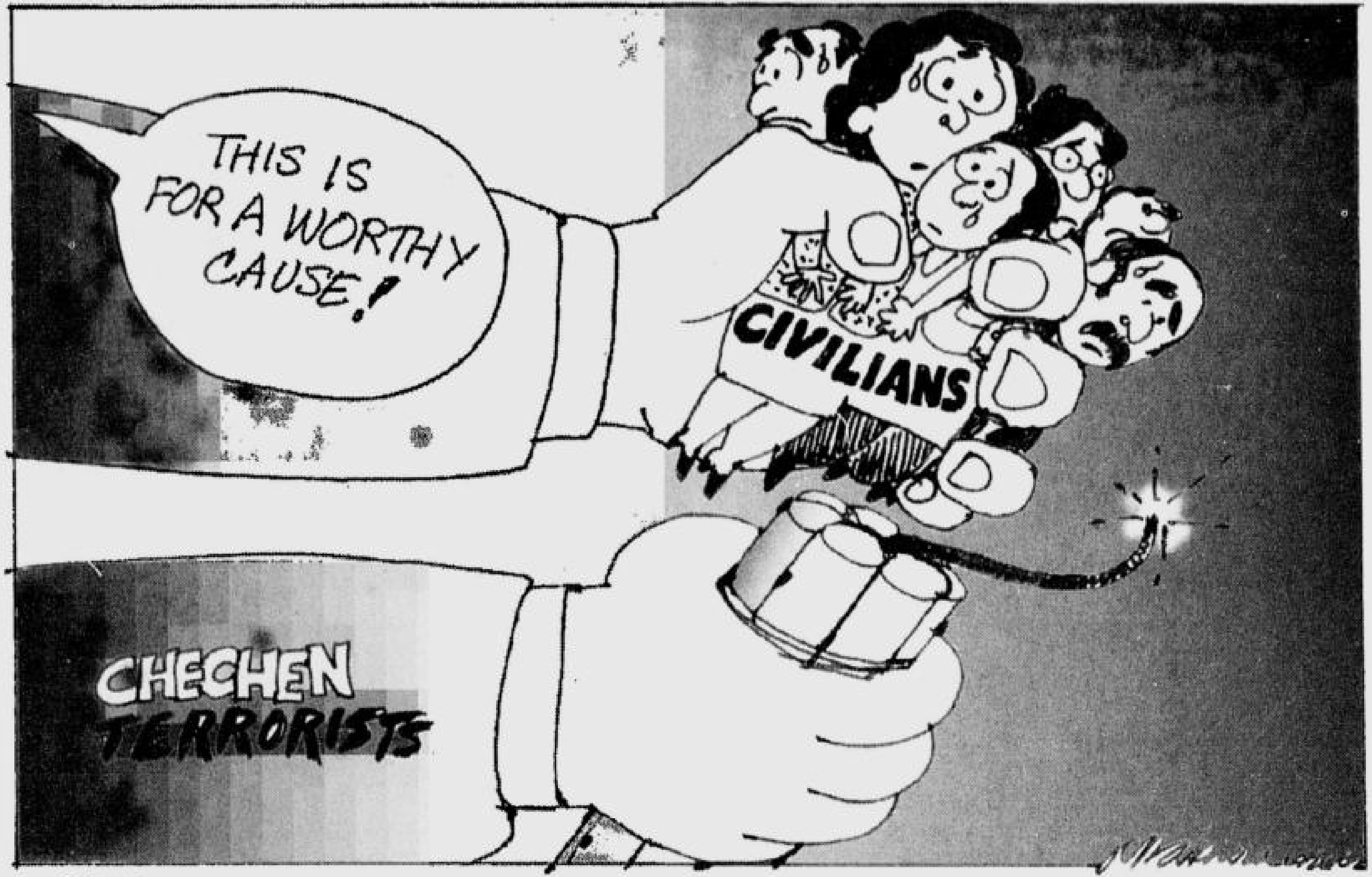


Terrorism spreads

EDITORIAL

CHECHEN separatist rebels have taken their independence struggle against Russia to the doorsteps of Moscow by seizing more than 700 theatergoers and holding them as hostages. The Moscow hostage-taking is the latest act in the recent wave of terrorism that has hit Bali, Zamboanga City and even Washington, where a single sniper has terrorized the inhabitants of the capital of the most powerful nation on earth.

As President George W. Bush intensifies US pressure on the United Nations Security Council to pass a resolution that seeks a UN mandate to disarm Iraq or face invasion, terrorism spreads, although the strikes in Moscow, Bali and Zamboanga have taken different forms and have been staged for different reasons.

The hostage-taking in Moscow is not the first time that the Chechen rebels seized hostages or hijacked Russian aircraft. But previous seizures were carried out in Chechnya or places far away from Moscow. The rebels have claimed responsibility and have demanded the immediate removal of Russian troops from Chechnya. The attack in Moscow has less to do with religious conflict and more to do with a political demand for independence. It is not, as some might glibly assert, another manifestation of the much-abused phrase, "clash of civilizations."

There are clearly no grounds to connect the Moscow hostage-taking to a terrorist network associated with al-Qaida or to see any relationship between the Moscow attack and the Bali bombing. But what's clear is hostage-taking and bombings have preyed on hapless and innocent civilians as victims. This victimization of civilians as pawns to secure political demands or redress deep-seated religious grievances is what makes such attacks condemnable.

If the United States is trying to forge an international coalition to fight international terrorism and to invade Iraq over its suspected possession of facilities to produce nuclear, chemical and biological weapons for mass destruction, terrorists are responding with their own version of globalized terrorism. To be sure, recent terrorist attacks suggest some degree of coordination, especially groups linked to al-Qaida, but there is no evidence to say they are forming their own international coalition to counter that being formed by the single superpower in the globe.

The United States now faces two fronts in the fight against terrorism—the first against Iraq and the second against groups that melt in the shadows in a borderless war. There is an argument that one important reason why Bush is lusting for war with Iraq—with or without UN mandate—is that the campaign in Afghanistan has only been a limited success, not having killed or captured Osama bin Laden, and he needs a territorial war where the United States is expected to win a visible military victory. The other war, against invisible terrorists in which there are no fronts, involves attrition without any dramatic victories.

Even if the United States annihilates Iraq militarily and topples the regime of President Saddam Hussein, there is no assurance that the raids and bombings, whether staged by the Chechens, the Jemaah Islamiyah in Indonesia or the Abu Sayyaf in Jolo, will stop. These actions are based on deep-seated resentments based on complex reasons including religion, political separatist aspirations, and social and economic grievances.

The prospects therefore are that terrorist attacks will continue even after a territorial war on Iraq has been won by the United States and whatever allies it can muster behind its war policy unless the grievances which feed violence are addressed. Civilians will continue to die, as they have died by the millions in the carpet bombing of cities during World War II or the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Terrorists may not have weapons capable of mass annihilation but still their best weapon to secure their demands is to take hostages. Hostage-taking is nothing new. It is as old as the history of warfare and does not require huge military budgets. Terrorists today have also been aided by new technology. The Sept. 11 attacks in the United States would not have been possible if terrorists had not availed of hi-tech devices. It would be too much to ask terrorists to spare non-combatants. Civilized rules of engagement have been disregarded in this war on terrorism. This is why the rise of conflict in which innocents are not spared is so tragic.

A dismal accounting

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

GOING over my files the other day, I came across a yellowed copy of Proclamation No. 3 issued by President Corazon C. Aquino on March 25, 1986, to promulgate the Provisional Constitution that would govern the country pending the adoption of a New Constitution.

The proclamation declared "a national policy to implement the reforms mandated by the people, protect their basic rights, adopt a provisional Constitution, and provide for an orderly transition to a government under a New Constitution."

Also stressed was the necessity for "the complete reorganization of the government, restoration of democracy, protection of basic rights, rebuilding of confidence in the entire government system, eradication of graft and corruption, restoration of peace and order, maintenance of the supremacy of civil authority over the military, and the transition to a government under a New Constitution in the shortest possible time."

President Aquino imposed upon herself the duty to give priority to measures to eradicate all iniquitous vestiges of the previous regime, rehabilitate the economy and promote the nationalist aspirations of the people, recover all ill-gotten properties by the leaders and supporters of the previous regime, and restore peace and order, settle the problems of insurgency, and pursue national reconciliation based on justice.

The Constitutional Commission appointed by President Aquino recognized all these objectives and embodied them in the new Constitution that became effective on Feb. 2, 1987. The majority of the people, still entranced by the vision of Edsa, looked forward to a resurrected democracy that would prevent a remission of the malady that had enfeebled the country for 13 long years.

The Supreme Court itself said in a memorable decision:

"A new spirit is now upon our land. A new vision limns the horizon. Now we can look forward with new hope that under the Constitution of the future, every Filipino shall be truly sovereign in his own country and able to express his will through the pristine ballot with only his conscience as his counsel.

"This is not an impossible dream. It is an approachable goal. It can and will be won if we are able at last, after our long ordeal, to say never again to tyranny. If we can do this with courage and conviction, then and only then, and not until then, can we truly say that the case is finished and the book is closed." (Javier v. Commission on Elections, 144 SCRA 194)

Fifteen years have elapsed since then, and now it is time to make an accounting. How have we fared since those grand aspirations defined the agenda of the government under that new Constitution?

In fairness to President Aquino, the former housewife could not be expected to solve the massive problems the ousted despot had thrust upon her. It was enough that Cory Aquino played her role in our history by simply serving as the symbol and instrument of the outraged citizenry in ending the Marcos misrule.

This is what has happened under her successors.

Fidel V. Ramos militarized the government despite the constitutional principle of the supremacy of civilian authority over the armed forces. Joseph Estrada followed suit, and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is doing the same, probably out of fear of a military takeover. The coddling of the military has only demonstrated its impotence in combating insurgency and maintaining peace and order.

The iniquitous vestiges of the previous regime have not been eradicated, and recovery of the ill-gotten properties amassed by its leaders remains one of the most shameful failures of the government. Many public places are still named after the Marcoses and that stone face of the dictator still uglifies the mountains of La Union. Imelda Marcos even served one useless term in Congress and two of her children now occupy elective public offices.

Graft and corruption have increased to plunder dimensions and have spread over the entire government, including the judiciary. Members of the AFP and the PNP are often involved in crimes they are sworn to prevent. Financial scandals have tainted many government projects, including the construction of a road in honor of the President's father.

The people's nationalistic sentiments have been subordinated to foreign political and commercial interests. The poor remain poor, and their dream of a place in the sun is as distant as ever. The faltering economy has injured not only the masses but also the rest of the people except the privileged elite and the immunized criminals.

The *bakya* crowd has dominated and polluted elections under the command of various religious groups selling their support to the highest bidder. The government is now contaminated by bumptious entertainers who stupidly believe that popularity at the box office equates with success in public office. The sovereign will of the electorate is further debased by vote-buying, terrorism and other election irregularities.

Have we been true to the ideals of Edsa? The question is the answer.

There are many more vices betraying People Power but they will have to be told another time. I may have already spoiled your day so early in the morning and recounting the nation's other ills will take longer than all night.

A decision that defies human comprehension

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

THE HOUSE Committee on Justice, by a vote of 36 to 16, with three abstentions and six not voting, decided last Wednesday (Oct. 23) that the impeachment complaint against Comelec Commissioner Luz Tancangco was not sufficient in substance (a "no" vote).

Does this "no" vote mean that the said committee has pronounced Tancangco innocent (or not guilty)? Theoretically, no, because it is only the Senate that can hear and try an impeachment case. But practically, it has done so, because the committee's vote, stripped of all its legal folderol, means that it does not even want to conduct a formal investigation of the complaint, to determine whether the case should be submitted for trial to the Upper House.

Given that congressional committees conduct investigations, almost at the drop of a hat, "in aid of legislation," one has to wonder why, when it comes to the charges against Tancangco—80 pages worth, with 200 pages of attachments—they seem to have drawn the line. A partial list of the charges:

1. Failure to implement RA 8436 (the election Automation Law), scheduled to be fully implemented by May 2001, although she had three years to do it as chair of the Comelec's Committee on Modernization. The charge: inefficiency and gross inexcusable negligence (considered part of graft and corruption).

2. Unliquidated advances; authorized advances of P199 million to employees who were not bonded, and an advance in excess of P10 million to a stenographer—per the findings of the Commission on Audit. The charge: betrayal of public trust.

3. Contract with Photokina Marketing—the so-called VRIS project that was null and void from the beginning because it was for an amount more than what had been appropriated by Congress—per the Supreme Court. The charge: inefficiency and gross inexcusable negligence (graft and corruption).

4. Writing a decision for a case assigned to another commissioner—per Comelec records. The charge: evident bad faith in the performance of duties (graft and corruption).

5. Unauthorized issuance of a resolution suspending ARMM elections in Sulu—per Comelec records. The charge: evident bad faith in the performance of duties.

6. Unlawful and unilateral transfer of office of election officers—per Comelec records. The charge: evident bad faith…

7. Boycott of en banc sessions—43 unexcused absences to Comelec en banc meetings, which resulted in 22 en banc sessions adjourned for lack of quorum—per Comelec records. The charge: betrayal of public trust.

8. Refusal to act on appointment of election officers, regional election directors and provincial election directors pending before the Commission en banc during en banc sessions—per Comelec records. The charge: betrayal of public trust.

An objective observer will have to agree that these charges, backed up as they are by what looks like solid evidence in the form of Comelec records, COA reports, and a Supreme Court decision, merit a formal investigation, at the very least. But this view is obviously not shared by the 36 members of the House Committee on Justice.

Actually, if such wrongdoings had occurred in a government agency that was not a constitutional body, Tancangco would surely have been kicked out by now. But since the Comelec is a constitutional body, impeachment is the only way she can be kicked out. That impeachment process starts with Congress, and the House Committee on Justice is the first step. Unfortunately, the latter, in its "wisdom," has decided, despite the findings of the COA and the Supreme Court, as well as Comelec records, that no investigation of the charges against Tancangco is merited.

What is the basis of that decision?

Well, that is the other thing. There is none. Because not one of the 36 members of the Committee on Justice who voted "no" bothered to explain his or her vote at the time it was submitted. Understand please, that voting "no" can already be considered brazen, given the evidence submitted. What brought the brazenness to new depths was the apparent lack of desire, inability or unwillingness to explain their "no" vote which appears to be a clear breach of the House Rules of Procedure on Impeachment Proceedings.

The Rules state that should the Committee on Justice find the complaint not sufficient in substance, its report to the plenary should contain the grounds on which the committee based its findings. As a matter of fact, the stated purpose of last Wednesday's meeting was to give the membership an opportunity to explain their votes. Yet what transpired last Wednesday was that only those who voted "yes" explained their votes—which is ironic, because they didn't have to.

It will be very interesting to see what reasons Justice Committee Chair Libanan is going to present in support of that vote, which must form part of the committee report. It will be even more interesting to see how he will relate those reasons to the committee deliberations, in the light of committee minutes which should show that there were no discussions on the matter. The most interesting part will, of course, be to see whether Congress, in plenary, will do the right thing, or whether it will give its imprimatur to this charade.

Conflict everywhere

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE CURRENT crisis in Moscow, which saw some 40 Chechnyan rebels storm a theater during a performance, and take 700 people of various nationalities hostage, has driven home many verities. One is that the secessionist war that has bedeviled Russia for a decade came driving straight to the capital's heart. It has embarrassed President Vladimir Putin, whose government has always claimed that the separatist movement is under control, and forced him to cancel his Apec trip. Second is that conflict and terror tactics seem to be everywhere in the world.

* * *

The irony shouldn't be lost on us that Russia is one of three permanent members of the Security Council empowered with a veto, that has refused to take a tough stance against Iraq, contrary to what the other two permanent members, the United States and Britain, have been pressing for. In fact, Russia has consistently supported France in its opposition to the US-authored resolution seeking automatic military action against Iraq in case a tough UN resolution calling for weapons inspection fails. So desperate is the United States about its two allies' refusal to back it up that it now wants to force a Security Council vote, confident of support from the 10 non-permanent members.

* * *

How would the Moscow hostage crisis affect Russia's position? Judging from what Sergei Lavrov, the Russian ambassador to the United Nations, said right after the crisis exploded, that may drive Russia even more against taking a tough stance on Iraq. Lavrov was quoted as saying with ill-concealed irritation that he was "preoccupied with the real problem," inferring that the threat posed by Iraq's weapons program was less immediate. Yet, who knows, perhaps this would also drive a sense of urgency to Russia about the need to contain terrorism and lawlessness in various parts of the world.

* * *

It was reassuring to the Makati corporate crowd at the Mandarin Ballroom last Monday to hear from Abdullah Jum'ah, president and chief executive officer of Saudi Arabian Oil Company, the world's biggest oil producing company, that the Philippines would be among the priority countries to receive oil supply in case of a war in the Middle East. At the Makati Business Club's membership meeting where he was the guest speaker, Jum'ah was asked whether, in the event of open conflict, RP's daily oil requirement of about 250,000 barrels of oil would be served, considering it's not a major buyer. His reply: "If we go an extra mile for our clients, we go an extra 10 miles for our partners; they get an extra deal."

Years back, Saudi Aramco and the Philippine National Oil Company went into a partnership, whereby each of them got to own 40 percent of Petron; the other 20 percent was opened to public subscription. On the supply agreement, Ju'mah noted that there was a time when Petron wanted to reduce the supply; now, it's a different ballgame and the question is, how much oil does Petron want?

* * *

In his spirited speech, Jum'ah stressed that the availability of energy has always been crucial to the world economy, and in this score the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has a track record in meeting the world's demand. He pointed out that Saudi Aramco has been "an exceptionally reliable supplier" through various crises such as the oil crunch of the '70s, the Iran-Iraq conflict and the invasion of Kuwait. With this new concern about a possible Middle East war, Jum'ah gave assurance of his company's "unwavering determination" to meet "expected as well as extraordinary demands."

He stressed that its export capacity to produce 10 million barrels of oil a day can be increased to 3 million more a day if needed, and this can be shipped from the Kingdom's eastern coast alone; an additional 5 million barrels can be handled from the west coast. Thus, he foresaw no problem of transportation even in case of conflict in the region.

* * *

Jum'ah pointed out that this sureness stems from three factors: the Kingdom's staggering oil reserves of about 260 billion barrels of oil, which is a quarter of the world's total oil reserves; Saudi Aramco's state-of-the-art technology, and its topnotch technocrats, a large part of whom are Filipinos. "In fact," he cracked, "We employ more Filipinos than Petron," noting that many Filipinos also work for other companies that have dealings with Aramco. To maintain its cutting edge, Aramco undertakes 10 million training hours a year, one of the largest training programs in the world. He also stressed—and this is something we could draw from—that his company takes physical security "very seriously" through a multiple-layer security arrangement that employs 5,000 security guards, supplemented by the Kingdom's security.

* * *

I attended the CEO's Forum sponsored by the Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Inc. (Seipi) earlier this week, which raised many interesting issues and concerns. Seipi CEOs from various multinational companies here pointed out that the electronics industry remains the engine of our exports, accounting for 60-70 percent, and that despite the state of the economy here and abroad, it remains bullish about RP and fully committed to partnership with the government. They also touted the "great Filipino electronics workers" who are truly world-class.

But the specter of China as a major investment destination clearly hovered over the group, revealing that China-watching is a vital preoccupation. Should RP be afraid of China?

(To be continued)

Realpolitik

COMMENTARY

Robin P. Rubinos

THOSE who are saying that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo should stop campaigning for the 2004 elections are either naïve or hypocrites.

Elective officials are politicians. They get their positions by campaigning for votes. They hope to stay in office by winning in the next elections. So they campaign early to improve their chances. President Macapagal is no exception.

Her critics contend that setting her sights on 2004 detract her from doing her job. First of all, is it wrong for her to set her sights on being reelected in 2004? Of course not. Let's grant her the presumption that she wants to really serve this country. And being a politician, the only way she can do it is by getting elected to a public office, and in this case, by getting reelected as President. Since she wants to win in the 2004 elections, naturally she will do all she can to campaign toward that goal and at the earliest possible time.

Like other politicians, she campaigns by going around the country, hobnobbing with the people, smiling, waving, shaking hands. But that is not enough. She has to show that she has done something for them. She has to tell what projects she built and to promise them that more are to come. In other words, it's not just showing common touch, it's also about performance in office. You may have the best smile in the world, but if you're a do-nothing, you're in trouble. That means you have to satisfy the people with the way you govern before you can convince them to let you continue in office.

So when President Macapagal makes her visits to urban poor areas or go on out-of-town trips, she does not just try to be cute to the people. She also makes sure she has brought benefits for them in terms of government projects and programs. Unless you convince the people that you have worked for their welfare, your backpatting or even baby-kissing will simply not go far. You must not only be charming, you must also do something good for the people. So by campaigning, President Macapagal at the same time makes sure that she works for the good of the country. Thus, her obsession to be reelected President rather than distracting her from her job, in fact spurs her to work doubly hard so that she can bring benefits to the people and thereby convince them to vote for her.

Some say that she should stay put in Malacañang and put her shoulders to eradicating poverty. If she succeeds, a grateful nation will readily let her stay on as President. That advice is unrealistic. No politician will win just by staying in his office without going out to mingle with the people. You may have done many good things but if the people don't see you, they may think you're a snob who look down on them. Or that you really don't care for them. Filipinos value interpersonal relationships a lot and the politician who ignores that does so at his own risk.

So, businessmen and civil society should not expect GMA to stop campaigning. She won't. It is in the nature of politics that you don't ever stop campaigning. The dictum is that the day after an election, you campaign for the next.

Businessmen who oppose GMA's campaigning may be doing so out of dissatisfaction with the way she manages the economy, or they want some favorable policy in their line of business or they envy other businessmen who have gotten advantageous deals because of their political clout.

Some civil society groups may believe that President Macapagal does not fight enough to put the interest of the poor above that of the rich. Or some of them are just plain disgruntled because they were not appointed to government positions.

Thus, there are those who oppose GMA's campaigning with the thought for the welfare of the country. But there are also those who just want to see her out of office. For this second category of critics, my argument is this: If campaigning for the 2004 elections would result in a bad government, what better way can they use to hasten GMA's downfall than to goad her to go on? That way she'd wreak havoc on the nation and the people would demand for her head. Her critics will say however that they want to prevent the country from falling into ruin, so they are asking her to stop. I say, if campaigning were bad, the people would kick her out in no time. Unfortunately for these critics, campaigning does no harm and in fact does the people good.

On the other hand, the opposition politicians are nothing but hypocrites. They are asking President Macapagal not to set her sights on the 2004 elections while they themselves are doing the same thing. They will not admit it but every statement they give to the media and every action they make is geared toward winning in the 2004 elections. Politicians that they are, they know that's the way to win.

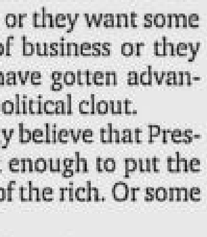
If they really believe that campaigning will distract GMA from the affairs of state to the detriment of the country, then they should not object but encourage it. If GMA's administration flops, then they will have a chance to succeed her. But they will say they do not want the country to fall into ruin. Who are they kidding? Since when have politicians put national interest ahead of their own? The real reason is that they fear President Macapagal will become so popular they will bite the dust in 2004.

Robin P. Rubinos practices law in San Jose, Antique.

Oscar Wilde and then some

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper



IN ONE of my less disastrous senior moments I made arrangements to listen to "The Three Sopranos Concert" at RCBC on the 17th and then proceeded to get the dates mixed up. As a result, some friends and I ended up watching Garcia Lorca's "The Public." I'm glad we did and oh, wow. Billy Abueva thinks it's the most homo-erotic drama he has ever watched. I couldn't figure out how anything with that much anguish, nudity or no nudity, can be erotic.

I was glad we had watched another play translated into a movie, "The Importance of Being Earnest" earlier, a bit of frothy, witty commentary on manners to balance Lorca's visible suffering. The setting in the English countryside is idyllic; Judy Dench is a joy to watch and almost makes up for Reese Witherspoon who sets my teeth on edge. She simpers.

With barely enough time to catch our breath, we took off from Greenbelt to RCBC to listen to the three sopranos who turned out to be something entirely different. At first I couldn't make heads or tails of the playwright's message. Since I had forgotten my glasses I couldn't read the play bill either. (What can you do? It was one of those days.) An actor removes his clothes and walks naked in the first act (good thing the MTCRB doesn't screen these things). Nervous giggles all around. As the drama unfolds you realize it's about homosexuality, illusion, denial and the suffering created by the non-acceptance of certain relationships by society. The greatest suffering though is caused by one's non-acceptance/non-forgiveness of the self. Written in 1929 the drama was too avant-garde, too radical, too "in your face" to be performed in Europe at the time. Both in subject matter and presentation it was ahead of its time. Publicized as Lorca's most experimental play, even he did not believe anyone would dare produce it or that any audience would stand for it since it criticizes the "private drama of each person."

Not having any pre-conceived notions of what we were about to watch (remember we thought we would be listening to three sopranos), the play's raw emotions startles, the characters' pain an open wound. We came to the conclusion it's not a bad idea at times to be startled out of our complacent satisfaction with this best of all possible worlds. But beyond Lorca's somber vision of life, is the compelling poetry of the dialogue, the beauty of the language and the imagery. Lorca for me remains a poet first and foremost. It was also a wonderful treat to watch students filling up all available seats at the theater all the way to the second balcony, some of them actually standing to get a better view.

October is turning out to be one of the most gratifying months culturally at least in terms of musical productions. In the midst of the Spanish and the Portuguese cultural festivals, the Embassy of Venezuela also added to the heady mix with the debut in the Philippines of "El Cuarteto," four musicians renowned for their interpretation of Venezuelan traditional music together with mezzo-soprano Dalila Colombo who has truly a magnificent voice. The lady is not only a much awarded stage and television actress but an opera singer of note. Venezuelan ambassador, Milena Ramirez, had as one of her priority projects when she arrived four years ago to bring Venezuelan culture to the Philippines and would have done much so earlier on had it not been for the great distance from her country to ours. Prior to this concert at the Little Theatre, the embassy presented 19th- and 20th-century Venezuelan composers in the classical style utilizing rather ingeniously I thought, the UST museum which a lot of people don't even know exists. Given however the state of larceny we're in, maybe it's a good thing not many people know about it.

Venezuelans apparently don't have problems with what they term the "mestization" of their culture that combines African, Amerindian and European [illegible] Instead of viewing their culture as [illegible] they consider this combination of [illegible] as having enriched it and created a [illegible] Their music is a fusion of musical [illegible] from Amerindian ancestors with an admixture of African influence.

Saturday found us at the rafters of the CCP mesmerized. To judge by the crowd's reaction at the performance of the New York Symphony, that event may well be the cultural highlight of the year. I won't pretend to review it as music is not my forte and there are others much better qualified to do so, but let me say that Filipinos are obviously willing to pay, willing to go through the rigors of traffic and dressing up to sit in silence where you could literally hear a pin drop, merely to feed their souls. Make no mistake; a government that does not see the spiritual as a priority is in trouble. And I don't mean going to Mass and saying your beads and novenas. Nor am I referring necessarily to the President. One senator had the temerity to respond when I mentioned the pigsties surrounding us with the excuse that "We have other priorities." Needless to say the politicians' usual comment on culture is that it's elitist. Presumably SUVs, Hugo Boss, Stateside medical treatment and constant travel aren't.

Volunteer spirit

YOUNG BLOOD

Paolo P. Mangahas

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

"YOU, of all people, are joining a forest cleanup somewhere in the middle of Manila? First of all, I never even knew there was a forest in Manila and second, you, of all people?"

This was said to me by an apparently flabbergasted friend who learned about my recent attempts at altruism. Initially, her ostensible display of disbelief incited me to mull over the many misconceptions some people may have about me, but in the end, it made me reflect on the level of unawareness some people choose to live with.

The reality is, there are those who live through life oblivious of the people and environment that make up their world. And there are those who consciously see each and every relationship and experience as part of themselves—as cosmic catalysts for their soulful development. I would like to believe that I am one of the latter. Inadvertently, it is this sense of kinship with everyone and everything around me that has spurred my foray into the selfless yet fulfilling world of volunteerism.

As individuals with diverse mind-sets, we all react rather differently to the seemingly prosaic social tableaus that scream for our attention every day: a homeless, barefoot child begging; an old, disabled man asking for food; or perhaps litter-infested streets, parks and drainageways waiting to be cleaned. Whether we like it or not, these scenes (and even more poignant ones) paint our daily picture of life. They have easily become the perennial subjects of our social canvass.

Some choose to look the other way (Which way? Anywhere you look gives you the same view), others opt to ignore what they see, several acknowledge the problem but would rather not do anything and only a few decide to make a difference.

This is where we can draw the line between the subjects—those who become part of the picture, the observers, the uninvolved onlookers and the artists, the ones who dare to dream big dreams for the country, the ones bold enough to envision a more beautiful and colorful picture of life, and most importantly, the ones who have the courage to pick up their instruments and create into a living reality the vividness of their imagination.

This, I believe, is what volunteers are truly made of.

Becoming a volunteer is not as complicated as the uninitiated would presume. The only prerequisite is a sincere desire to help—to give a part of yourself for the enrichment of other people's lives and the world at large.

Where do you start? As the popular saying goes, charity begins at home. Try calling your village association or local barangay office to check if there are any existing civic or environmental programs that you can join. If there are none, start one with your family or friends. This will motivate you to finally do something about certain issues you may have been wanting to address in your own backyard, as it were. It may also finally put an end to your complaining and allow your mouth to rest by letting your hands and feet to do the work for a change. This may be as simple as joining fund-raising activities, clean-up drives, recycling projects or even livelihood programs where you can share your expertise in any field be it computers, arts and crafts, reading and writing, cooking or any useful knowledge that could mean a more sustainable life for others.

You can bring new life to children with cancer by reading storybooks to them; empower young women to start their own business by training them with essential skills; nourish young minds by teaching street children to read and write; bring renewed confidence to survivors of child abuse by being their friend; gain wisdom from the elderly by spending time with them; or give back to the environment by cleaning parks and planting trees.

Volunteering opportunities abound in this country, as there are innumerable people in need of sustainable development. I would like to give emphasis to the word "sustainable," for there is a severe contrast between merely giving alms to beggars and inspiring them to make a living and stand on their own two feet with a sense of dignity and worth. No amount of volunteering can ever add up to the fulfillment of seeing former indigent people finally sever the need for volunteers.

For those of you in the dark, as to where you can channel your humanitarian energies, I suggest you contact Hands On Manila (Tel No. 8435231 /E-mail: handsonmla@edsamail.com.ph). It is a non-profit organization that provides flexible volunteer opportunities in Metro Manila. Since availability of time is what usually hinders most people from volunteering, Hands On Manila conveniently provides an extensive list of organizations and foundations where you can share your time and expertise, depending on your schedule and interests.

I was fortunate enough to grow up in a socially aware household. As early as my grade school years, I was already enmeshed in the often frenzied yet amusing world of national and local elections as either a campaign volunteer or a poll-watcher. Some of my most memorable summers also involved newspaper drives, car wash projects and other fund-raising campaigns. Coming from a private Catholic high school has likewise given me leverage in this area as it proved instrumental in developing compassion toward others through the various outreach programs and activities I was constantly exposed to.

Participation in these kinds of endeavors honed my capacity to proactively carry out my values and beliefs. It strengthened my notion that the power for positive change lies within us and that no matter how seemingly insignificant our contribution to society may be, we can always send out a ripple strong enough to create a wave of change in people's lives and touch them in more ways than we could ever imagine.

One of my most unforgettable volunteer works entailed teaching a child to read and write. There's an incredible kind of magic that happens when you see the eyes of a child eager to learn, to absorb every word you say. And there's an even greater miracle that happens when you begin to see yourself in those eyes and come face to face with your soul and feel your interconnectedness with all beings. That is when you recognize your oneness. That is when you realize that any act of kindness you do for others you ultimately do for yourself.

How many times have we heard the phrase: "I'm only human"? More often than not, people who say this fail to see the divine in them. But perhaps it is their own humanity that they really fail to see. Maybe being only human is not the problem. Maybe not being human enough is. Because it is only in celebrating our humanity that we are able to see ourselves in others and it is only in connecting with others that we are able to bring hope of a better life.

This, I believe, is the greatest gift of volunteers. Yes, me, of all people.

Paolo P. Mangahas, 27, is a Communication Arts graduate of the University of the Philippines and a scriptwriter for special events. He does volunteer work with foundations involved in helping children or the environment.

Conflict everywhere

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE CURRENT crisis in Moscow, which saw some 40 Chechnyan rebels storm a theater during a performance, and take 700 people of various nationalities hostage, has driven home many verities. One is that the secessionist war that has bedeviled Russia for a decade came driving straight to the capital's heart. It has embarrassed President Vladimir Putin, whose government has always claimed that the separatist movement is under control, and forced him to cancel his Apec trip. Second is that conflict and terror tactics seem to be everywhere in the world.

* * *

The irony shouldn't be lost on us that Russia is one of three permanent members of the Security Council empowered with a veto, that has refused to take a tough stance against Iraq, contrary to what the other two permanent members, the United States and Britain, have been pressing for. In fact, Russia has consistently supported France in its opposition to the US-authored resolution seeking automatic military action against Iraq in case a tough UN resolution calling for weapons inspection fails. So desperate is the United States about its two allies' refusal to back it up that it now wants to force a Security Council vote, confident of support from the 10 non-permanent members.

* * *

How would the Moscow hostage crisis affect Russia's position? Judging from what Sergei Lavrov, the Russian ambassador to the United Nations, said right after the crisis exploded, that may drive Russia even more against taking a tough stance on Iraq. Lavrov was quoted as saying with ill-concealed irritation that he was "preoccupied with the real problem," inferring that the threat posed by Iraq's weapons program was less immediate. Yet, who knows, perhaps this would also drive a sense of urgency to Russia about the need to contain terrorism and lawlessness in various parts of the world.

* * *

It was reassuring to the Makati corporate crowd at the Mandarin Ballroom last Monday to hear from Abdullah Jum'ah, president and chief executive officer of Saudi Arabian Oil Company, the world's biggest oil producing company, that the Philippines would be among the priority countries to receive oil supply in case of a war in the Middle East. At the Makati Business Club's membership meeting where he was the guest speaker, Jum'ah was asked whether, in the event of open conflict, RP's daily oil requirement of about 250,000 barrels of oil would be served, considering it's not a major buyer. His reply: "If we go an extra mile for our clients, we go an extra 10 miles for our partners; they get an extra deal."

Years back, Saudi Aramco and the Philippine National Oil Company went into a partnership, whereby each of them got to own 40 percent of Petron; the other 20 percent was opened to public subscription. On the supply agreement, Ju'mah noted that there was a time when Petron wanted to reduce the supply; now, it's a different ballgame and the question is, how much oil does Petron want?

* * *

In his spirited speech, Jum'ah stressed that the availability of energy has always been crucial to the world economy, and in this score the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has a track record in meeting the world's demand. He pointed out that Saudi Aramco has been "an exceptionally reliable supplier" through various crises such as the oil crunch of the '70s, the Iran-Iraq conflict and the invasion of Kuwait. With this new concern about a possible Middle East war, Jum'ah gave assurance of his company's "unwavering determination" to meet "expected as well as extraordinary demands."

He stressed that its export capacity to produce 10 million barrels of oil a day can be increased to 3 million more a day if needed, and this can be shipped from the Kingdom's eastern coast alone; an additional 5 million barrels can be handled from the west coast. Thus, he foresaw no problem of transportation even in case of conflict in the region.

* * *

Jum'ah pointed out that this sureness stems from three factors: the Kingdom's staggering oil reserves of about 260 billion barrels of oil, which is a quarter of the world's total oil reserves; Saudi Aramco's state-of-the-art technology, and its topnotch technocrats, a large part of whom are Filipinos. "In fact," he cracked, "We employ more Filipinos than Petron," noting that many Filipinos also work for other companies that have dealings with Aramco. To maintain its cutting edge, Aramco undertakes 10 million training hours a year, one of the largest training programs in the world. He also stressed—and this is something we could draw from—that his company takes physical security "very seriously" through a multiple-layer security arrangement that employs 5,000 security guards, supplemented by the Kingdom's security.

* * *

I attended the CEO's Forum sponsored by the Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Inc. (Seipi) earlier this week, which raised many interesting issues and concerns. Seipi CEOs from various multinational companies here pointed out that the electronics industry remains the engine of our exports, accounting for 60-70 percent, and that despite the state of the economy here and abroad, it remains bullish about RP and fully committed to partnership with the government. They also touted the "great Filipino electronics workers" who are truly world-class.

But the specter of China as a major investment destination clearly hovered over the group, revealing that China-watching is a vital preoccupation. Should RP be afraid of China?

(To be continued)

Realpolitik

COMMENTARY

Robin P. Rubinos

THOSE who are saying that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo should stop campaigning for the 2004 elections are either naïve or hypocrites.

Elective officials are politicians. They get their positions by campaigning for votes. They hope to stay in office by winning in the next elections. So they campaign early to improve their chances. President Macapagal is no exception.

Her critics contend that setting her sights on 2004 detract her from doing her job. First of all, is it wrong for her to set her sights on being reelected in 2004? Of course not. Let's grant her the presumption that she wants to really serve this country. And being a politician, the only way she can do it is by getting elected to a public office, and in this case, by getting reelected as President. Since she wants to win in the 2004 elections, naturally she will do all she can to campaign toward that goal and at the earliest possible time.

Like other politicians, she campaigns by going around the country, hobnobbing with the people, smiling, waving, shaking hands. But that is not enough. She has to show that she has done something for them. She has to tell what projects she built and to promise them that more are to come. In other words, it's not just showing common touch, it's also about performance in office. You may have the best smile in the world, but if you're a do-nothing, you're in trouble. That means you have to satisfy the people with the way you govern before you can convince them to let you continue in office.

So when President Macapagal makes her visits to urban poor areas or go on out-of-town trips, she does not just try to be cute to the people. She also makes sure she has brought benefits for them in terms of government projects and programs. Unless you convince the people that you have worked for their welfare, your backpatting or even baby-kissing will simply not go far. You must not only be charming, you must also do something good for the people. So by campaigning, President Macapagal at the same time makes sure that she works for the good of the country. Thus, her obsession to be reelected President rather than distracting her from her job, in fact spurs her to work doubly hard so that she can bring benefits to the people and thereby convince them to vote for her.

Some say that she should stay put in Malacañang and put her shoulders to eradicating poverty. If she succeeds, a grateful nation will readily let her stay on as President. That advice is unrealistic. No politician will win just by staying in his office without going out to mingle with the people. You may have done many good things but if the people don't see you, they may think you're a snob who look down on them. Or that you really don't care for them. Filipinos value interpersonal relationships a lot and the politician who ignores that does so at his own risk.

So, businessmen and civil society should not expect GMA to stop campaigning. She won't. It is in the nature of politics that you don't ever stop campaigning. The dictum is that the day after an election, you campaign for the next.

Businessmen who oppose GMA's campaigning may be doing so out of dissatisfaction with the way she manages the economy, or they want some favorable policy in their line of business or they envy other businessmen who have gotten advantageous deals because of their political clout.

Some civil society groups may believe that President Macapagal does not fight enough to put the interest of the poor above that of the rich. Or some of them are just plain disgruntled because they were not appointed to government positions.

Thus, there are those who oppose GMA's campaigning with the thought for the welfare of the country. But there are also those who just want to see her out of office. For this second category of critics, my argument is this: If campaigning for the 2004 elections would result in a bad government, what better way can they use to hasten GMA's downfall than to goad her to go on? That way she'd wreak havoc on the nation and the people would demand for her head. Her critics will say however that they want to prevent the country from falling into ruin, so they are asking her to stop. I say, if campaigning were bad, the people would kick her out in no time. Unfortunately for these critics, campaigning does no harm and in fact does the people good.

On the other hand, the opposition politicians are nothing but hypocrites. They are asking President Macapagal not to set her sights on the 2004 elections while they themselves are doing the same thing. They will not admit it but every statement they give to the media and every action they make is geared toward winning in the 2004 elections. Politicians that they are, they know that's the way to win.

If they really believe that campaigning will distract GMA from the affairs of state to the detriment of the country, then they should not object but encourage it. If GMA's administration flops, then they will have a chance to succeed her. But they will say they do not want the country to fall into ruin. Who are they kidding? Since when have politicians put national interest ahead of their own? The real reason is that they fear President Macapagal will become so popular they will bite the dust in 2004.

Robin P. Rubinos practices law in San Jose, Antique.

Oscar Wilde and then some

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

IN ONE of my less disastrous senior moments I made arrangements to listen to "The Three Sopranos Concert" at RCBC on the 17th and then proceeded to get the dates mixed up. As a result, some friends and I ended up watching Garcia Lorca's "The Public." I'm glad we did and oh, wow. Billy Abueva thinks it's the most homo-erotic drama he has ever watched. I couldn't figure out how anything with that much anguish, nudity or no nudity, can be erotic.

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With barely enough time to catch our breath, we took off from Greenbelt to RCBC to listen to the three sopranos who turned out to be something entirely different. At first I couldn't make heads or tails of the playwright's message. Since I had forgotten my glasses I couldn't read the play bill either. (What can you do? It was one of those days.) An actor removes his clothes and walks naked in the first act (good thing the MTCRB doesn't screen these things). Nervous giggles all around. As the drama unfolds you realize it's about homosexuality, illusion, denial and the suffering created by the non-acceptance of certain relationships by society. The greatest suffering though is caused by one's non-acceptance/non-forgiveness of the self. Written in 1929 the drama was too avant-garde, too radical, too "in your face" to be performed in Europe at the time. Both in subject matter and presentation it was ahead of its time. Publicized as Lorca's most experimental play, even he did not believe anyone would dare produce it or that any audience would stand for it since it criticizes the "private drama of each person."

Not having any pre-conceived notions of what we were about to watch (remember we thought we would be listening to three sopranos), the play's raw emotions startles, the characters' pain an open wound. We came to the conclusion it's not a bad idea at times to be startled out of our complacent satisfaction with this best of all possible worlds. But beyond Lorca's somber vision of life, is the compelling poetry of the dialogue, the beauty of the language and the imagery. Lorca for me remains a poet first and foremost. It was also a wonderful treat to watch students filling up all available seats at the theater all the way to the second balcony, some of them actually standing to get a better view.

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Rigorous JBC grilling cleared Azcuna

IT is unfortunate that Sen. Jovito Salonga and the INQUIRER in its Sunday editorial continue to cast doubt on the decency and integrity of our former partner, Adolfo S. Azcuna, whom President Macapagal-Arroyo named to the Supreme Court last week.

The editorial focuses on two alleged improprieties that Azcuna supposedly committed in his 40-year career as a lawyer—his alleged fronting for Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez and an opinion he issued as lawyer for the Manila Bulletin.

The fact is that Azcuna resigned from the Bengzon Law Office because of his discomfort with how that firm handled the Trans Middle East Corp. (TMEC), which acquired shares in PCIBank supposedly for Romualdez. That law firm incorporated TMEC with Azcuna as nominal chair some time prior to the acquisition. The shares were purchased without his knowledge. When he found out, he wrote several letters to his senior partners in the firm, asking for an explanation and requesting that he be taken out of TMEC. Shortly afterward, he resigned from the Bengzon Law Office.

In no way can this incident be described, as it was in your editorial, as involving "the worst excesses of crony capitalism during a sordid chapter in our history." It was simply the case of a good man who did the decent thing when he discovered an impropriety had been committed behind his back.

Azcuna's letters to the Bengzon Law Office were provided to the Judicial Bar Council (JBC) and the Supreme Court, which voted to nominate him to the Supreme Court despite Salonga's vehement but ill-informed, objections. Azcuna's reputation has been cleared under the most rigorous grilling. Your reporter, who was at the JBC hearing, will attest to how Azcuna acquitted himself.

Your editorial ends with an insinuation that once in the Supreme Court, Azcuna will be biased toward the Marcoses and the Romualdezes. How can this be when he had no personal dealings with them and it was precisely his former law firm's link to Romualdez that caused his resignation? Azcuna was also legal counsel for President Aquino when she was in Malacañang and even afterward. Moreover, our law firm represents several companies owned by the Lopezes, the family allegedly victimized by the Romualdezes. If there were any truth to Azcuna's alleged misbehavior, the Lopezes would not have sought our firm's counsel. Our law firm has also represented many anti-Marcos groups and individuals, including the Foundation for Worldwide People Power, which produced books and documentaries on the excesses of martial rule.

The Manila Bulletin case is so minor, it is not even worth mentioning. Nonetheless, to set the record straight, as lawyer for the Manila Bulletin, Azcuna wrote a legal opinion saying that there are no suits or proceedings which will affect the financial integrity of said company. This opinion was later factually confirmed by the Sandiganbayan. What can possibly be wrong with that? A lawyer is supposed to issue legal opinions, and in this case, that opinion was proven to be correct.

Azcuna has been a lawyer for 40 years and this is all they could find against him: two isolated incidents that in no way damage his decency and integrity. If President Macapagal wants to pack the Supreme Court with men and women like Azcuna, we will all be the better for it.

—FELICITAS AQUINO-ARROYO, WILLIAM T. CHUA, MA. PILAR MARTINEZ-CAEDO, Arroyo Chua & Caedo Law Offices, G/F Cedar Mansion II, Escriva Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Ombudsman's side not heard

THIS is in reaction to the news item which appeared in your paper on Aug. 26, 2002, headlined "SC ruling on Ombudsman's powers invoked in Urban case" by Raul C. Dancel.

We are disturbed that Dancel made efforts to get comments from Rep. Oscar Moreno, who is not even remotely connected with the Office of the Ombudsman, or with Renato Tapiador or the Urban Bank cases, but he failed (or refused?) to get our side before he published the article. There is a need to straighten out the facts.

The Supreme Court decision in the Tapiador case has not yet attained finality because of our timely filing of a motion for reconsideration. In the said motion, the Office of the Ombudsman pointed out that its disciplinary jurisdiction on the Tapiador case (which, by the way, was not an issue brought up by the parties in this case) and all elective or appointive officials of the government, except impeachable officials, members of Congress and the judiciary finds full support in the 1987 Constitution and Republic Act No. 6770, otherwise known as the Ombudsman Act of 1989, as well as in the prevailing, existing and earlier pronouncements in many cases decided by the Supreme Court itself.

Until and unless the high court declares the Ombudsman Act unconstitutional and abandons its earlier definitive rulings concerning the administrative powers of the Ombudsman, it shall continue dispensing said authority. Hence, it is premature for any person to declare that the Ombudsman can only recommend the removal of the public official or employee found to be at fault to the public official concerned on the basis merely of an isolated ruling that has not become final and is still being deliberated upon by the Supreme Court.

Perhaps, Dancel does not realize it, but his inaccurate and misleading news article undoubtedly emboldened the grafters in the government to commit more irregularities, which the Office of the Ombudsman is trying very hard to address.

At this point, it is best to wait for the Supreme Court to come out with its final ruling on the case instead of delving on speculations over a matter still pending with it.

—JOSE T. DE JESUS JR., spokesperson, Office of the Ombudsman, Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City

I CAME upon the case of Renato Tapiador, a former special investigator who was assigned as a technical assistant to then BID Associate Commissioner Bayani Subido Jr., as I was following up on a story about Urban Bank Inc.

The documents I used were records of the Supreme Court. The fact that the case was still under review at the time I wrote about it did not make the statements and opinions in it or the interpretations of these statements and opinions by a lawyer, a congressman or any person familiar with the matter inaccurate or untrue.

—RAUL C. DANCEL

Malaysia's request for an apology

OP INHUMAN
TREATMENT
OF FILIPINOS IN
MALAYSIA!
-GABRIELA

CONGRATULATIONS to the Philippine government for its positive and well-done reaction to the unreasonable request of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad. Particularly, I commend Sen. Manny Villar of the Senate committee on foreign affairs. Villar points out that the Malaysian government maltreated, humiliated and degraded our citizens and yet no apology was made on the part of the Malaysian government.

The issue here is not so much who's sorry or who should apologize or of being sensitive because of diplomatic protocol. What has to be pointed out here is that no less than a crime against a person and a grave violation of basic human rights were committed. No matter who a person is, he has rights whether he is Filipino or Malaysian. The issue has to focus on the immorality and the condemnation of such an act, and the cover-up because of sensitivities of being picky because of diplomatic semantics.

—RAMON C.F. CUERVO III, Tyler, North Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila

Clarifications on press conference with rebels

THANK you for covering the press conference of the representatives of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the Rebolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggagawa-Pilipinas/Revolutionary Proletarian Army/Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPM-P/RPA/ABB) to the Joint Enforcement and Monitoring Committee (JEMC) of the GRP-RPM-P/RPA/ABB peace agreement, held on Oct. 14. An article on the press conference, entitled "Rebel group allowed to carry firearms," written by Nestor P. Burgos, appeared in the Across the Nation section on Oct. 15.

However, I would like to make the following clarifications:

(1) The sentence, "The RPA-ABB will get P500 million for the implementation of development projects," is blatantly false. Under the implementing rules signed during the press conference, no cash payments will be given to the RPM-P/RPA/ABB. Instead, poor barangays identified by the RPM-P/RPA/ABB and affirmed by the JEMC will be provided with the development projects, which may include government programs in the pipeline.

(2) The local monitoring teams that will be created under implementing rules will include not three members (one from the GRP, one from the RPM-P/RPA/ABB, and a community leader acceptable to both), as reported, but four. The additional person in the team will be the representative of the local government unit, nominated by the local development council.

(3) The phrase, "She [Secretary Teresita Quintos-Deles] however, clarified that the agreement does not cover final disposition of armed forces...," should instead read as "She, however, clarified that the agreement does not cover final disposition of forces."

—TERESITA QUINTOS-DELES, lead convenor, National Anti-Poverty Commission, 6th/7th Floor, DHC Bldg., 1115 Edsa, Quezon City

Palawan port expansion redesigned

THIS refers to the news story which appeared on Oct. 12, 2002, entitled "Delay in Puerto port expansion hit."

It is unfortunate that the INQUIRER was unable to check and print the side of the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) on the said article. What came out did not have all the facts and information on the matter.

For the record, there was a failure of bids in the first bidding conducted last November for the proposed expansion of the reinforced concrete wharf at the Port of Puerto Princesa. The bidding was declared a failure since the lowest bidder was disqualified in the post-qualification evaluation due to falsification and misrepresentation in its submitted bid documents.

For this reason, said bidder is now under PPA investigation to determine its culpability prior to recommending its blacklisting to the Philippine Constructors Accreditation Board (PCAB), and the Construction Industry Authority of the Philippines (CIAP).

The second lowest bidder (in the same bidding) was likewise post-disqualified for technical reasons.

A second bidding was then conducted and which went through the complete bidding process in accordance with Executive Order No. 40. We are now currently in the process of conducting the post-qualification on the qualified bidder that submitted the lowest financial bid. Our projection is that the project will start this November 2002. Prudent review and evaluation of the project, as well as taking into consideration certain budgetary constraints, resulted in a redesigning of the project to make it more responsive to the requirements of the area. This accounts for the reduced estimated cost.

The PPA in its undertakings, endeavors to work closely with all port stakeholders to ensure the responsiveness and efficiency of our plans, programs and projects, to make them relevant to the needs and requirements of an area.

—PERCIVAL VINCENT P. TAN, head executive assistant, Philippine Ports Authority, Marsman Building, 22 Muelle de San Francisco, Gate 1, South Harbor, Port Area, Manila

What do they want?

SINCE their election as party-list representatives, all that Satur Ocampo, Liza Maza, Crispin Beltran and Etta Rosales have done is hurl criticisms against the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo and the US-assisted projects in the country. They did not like Erap. They do not like Gloria. What do they really want?

If they think they have the solutions to our problems, let them introduce bills to solve them. What have they done to improve the lot of our countrymen? What have they done to solve the Abu Sayyaf problem in Mindanao? Nothing.

If they have nothing substantial to show the Filipino people except talk a lot of nonsense, they better shut up and stop grandstanding. For once they should do something useful to earn their keep.

—JB SAMONTE, North Xavierville, Quezon City

Luna's work should return for viewing

LET'S hope that if the sale of Juan Luna's "Parisian Life" goes ahead, the painting will return to the Philippines after the auction and, better still, be exhibited in a gallery where everyone can see and enjoy it. Let's hope too that Christie's will strive a little harder in the future to be historically accurate when describing the artworks they are selling. They claim that their catalogues are renowned for their "careful research," but in this case their description of the painting and its context is wrong on several counts.

The catalogue notes claim, for example, that when he painted "Parisian Life" Luna was a "familiar of the French royal court," whereas France at that time was a republic. They suggest that the café in the painting is "possibly Maxim's," while according to Maxim's own website, the café didn't open until 1893.

Christie's also made a number of mistakes in sketching the artist's biography. The catalogue states that Luna moved to Paris in October 1884, when in fact it was November, as recorded in the diary of Jose Rizal, who bade farewell to his friend at a Madrid railway station. It implies that the painting portrays an actual "gathering" of Luna, Rizal and Ariston Bautista Lin in the spring of 1892, whereas Rizal was by then in Hong Kong, having left France in October 1891. And although the catalogue alludes to "the tumultuous happenings to come in the artist's life," it strangely omits the grisly truth about those happenings—namely that on the afternoon of Saturday, Sept. 23, 1892, Juan Luna took out his brand-new revolver and deliberately shot and killed his own wife and mother-in-law.

One final point. The catalogue strangely claims that "Parisian Life," which is after all an everyday café scene, somehow "encapsulates the intangible ideas of the Filipino national consciousness." More realistically, however, the notes also remark that the painting captures "a fleeting moment" when Luna, Rizal and Bautista Lin were in a "playful, relaxed mood" which "does not give the slightest hint....of the heroic paths all three men would take."

Filipinos today should not be deprived of the chance to appreciate this unique souvenir of that fleeting moment, a convivial instant when the patriots seem to be exchanging a whisper about the attractive Parisienne across the room: *"Ano kaya siya?"*

—DR. JIM RICHARDSON, 73 Hillbrook Rd., London SW17 8SF

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

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Bush, Jiang and Nokor nuclear weapons

NEWS ANALYSIS

Steve Holland

CRAWFORD, Texas—US President George W. Bush will discuss with Chinese President Jiang Zemin ways to pressure North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons program in talks on Friday at Bush's Texas ranch, US officials said.

Aides said Bush was also expected to restate to Jiang US concerns that Iraq and its suspected weapons of mass destruction pose an imminent threat which requires a tough new UN resolution requiring Baghdad to disarm.

China, while opposing the use of military force against Iraq, is widely expected to abstain from a Security Council vote possible next week rather than exercise its veto power.

France and Russia have led the opposition to a US draft resolution.

Bush and Jiang are to meet for 90 minutes then break for lunch with their wives, followed by a pickup truck tour of the natural features of Bush's 648-hectare ranch on the prairie of central Texas near the tiny town of Crawford.

Both are on their way to a weekend summit of Asian leaders in Los Cabos, Mexico.

North Korea's admission that it has a secret nuclear weapons program, which US officials say has spawned one or two nuclear bombs, figured to be a dominant theme at the Bush-Jiang talks.

White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer said Bush and Jiang "will seek a common approach on how to convince North Korea to abandon its pursuit of nuclear weapons." A senior Bush administration official said Bush would discuss with Jiang potential "diplomatic, political and perhaps financial pressures on North Korea." US officials said China is unique in having a substantial relationship with North Korea and, as the biggest provider of economic aid to Pyongyang, has a great potential ability to exercise some leverage.

Bush will also talk to leaders of Japan and South Korea while in Mexico and Washington is also reaching out to Russia and European nations with ties to North Korea.

Washington at this point is not seeking support for any specific punishment of North Korea as it seeks a diplomatic solution to the crisis.

"At this point it's more talking about what potential next steps might be, and to develop a coordinated approach," one official said.

They are also expected to discuss trade as well as human rights, a perennial sore spot between the two countries.

A ranch visit is a treasured gift for a foreign leader. It is a farewell visit of sorts for Jiang, 76, who is expected to step down as Communist Party chief next month.

There has been speculation—never denied—that Jiang could refuse to step down from one or more of his posts.

US officials said that while there is always a chance for surprise, there is a consensus among US policymakers that a leadership transition in China is coming up.

Bush and Jiang worked through a rocky period to enjoy relatively good relations. When Bush came to office, the two nations locked horns over the collision between a US spy plane and a Chinese fighter.

Beijing and Washington have worked together in the US-led war on terrorism, however, and national security adviser Candoleezza Rice said on Wednesday that US-Chinese relations were on a "good footing." In College Station, Texas, on Thursday, Jiang said in a speech at the Texas A&M University that China and the United States were "victims of terrorism" and that the two giants had stood together to carry out "effective cooperation." Beijing has backed the US-led war on terrorism while calling for support for its own campaign against separatists from the ethnic Uighur minority in the northwest region of Xinjiang. Washington has placed the separatist group, the East Turkestan Islamic Movement, on its list of terrorist organizations.

"China will continue to step up its consultation and cooperation with the US on counterterrorism and join the rest of the world in the concerted fight against this common scourge," Jiang said. *Reuters*

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

World moves to isolate Jemaah Islamiah

JAKARTA—A small explosion at a shopping mall has increased fears of renewed terror attacks in Indonesia, while nearly 50 nations have joined in the effort to have Jemaah Islamiah—a group suspected in the Bali nightclub bombings—declared a terrorist organization.

Police in Bali said Friday they would bring dozens of witnesses to the scene of the Oct. 12 blasts that killed nearly 190 people, in an effort to reconstruct events in the night leading up to the attack.

A large portion of Legian street, the main thoroughfare in the tourist resort of Kuta, was closed off by officers. The two nightclubs where the explosions occurred—Sari's and Paddy's—were at the center of the restricted area.

There was no claim of responsibility for Thursday's explosion which slightly hurt two people at a shopping mall in Bandung, 180 km southeast of Jakarta, but police described the device—and two others defused at another mall—as similar to large firecrackers. Wrapped like a gift package, it blew up as a janitor tried to move it from the cleaning cart where he found it.

The devices appeared intended to frighten, rather than kill, police said, and there was no indication who made or planted them.

But the incidents came after repeated warnings by Western governments about the possibility of further terrorist attacks in Indonesia in the aftermath of the Bali blasts, raising fears of further insecurity in the world's largest Muslim nation.

In Canberra, Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said 47 countries supported efforts by Australia and the United States to get the UN Security Council to declare Jemaah Islamiah a terrorist group.

The US State Department added Jemaah Islamiah to its own list of terrorist groups Wednesday, thus freezing its assets, making it a crime to contribute funds and barring members from traveling to the United States.

Indonesia also wants an international ban on the shadowy region-wide organization, which is said to be allied to al-Qaida and seeks to establish an Islamic super-state in Southeast Asia.

The group's spiritual leader, radical Islamic cleric Abu Bakar Bashir, is under custody in his hometown of Solo, about 400 km east of Jakarta. Bashir, 64, who denies any link to the terrorists, has been in a hospital for the past week due to respiratory and heart problems.

The hospitalization has prevented police from questioning Bashir for alleged involvement in several church bombings two years ago in which 19 people died, and for a plot to assassinate Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri.

Indonesia ignored months of warnings from foreign countries about the dangers represented by Jemaah Islamiah. But under pressure since the Bali bombings, authorities arrested Bashir and last week imposed anti-terror legislation relaxing evidence rules needed to detain suspects. *AP*

N. Korea wants nonaggression treaty with US

SEOUL—North Korea said Friday it wanted a "nonaggression treaty" with the United States, but warned it was entitled to possess nuclear weapons as long as it felt threatened by the US nuclear arsenal.

The major policy statement came as the United States tried to muster international pressure on North Korea to drop its nuclear weapons program, which threatens to undermine reconciliation efforts on the divided Korean peninsula.

Citing an unidentified Foreign Ministry official, the North's state-run news agency, KCNA, reported that the isolated country wanted to make a deal with the nation that it has defined as its No. 1 enemy since the 1950-53 Korean War.

"The DPRK considers that it is a reasonable and realistic solution to the nuclear issue to conclude a nonaggression treaty between the DPRK and the US if the grave situation of the Korean peninsula is to be bridged over," the English-language report said.

DPRK stands for Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Some South Korean analysts viewed the North Korean offer as a concession. But the United States has said the nuclear issue is not up for negotiation, and that the North's weapons programs pose a threat to regional and even global stability.

"Our position with respect to disarmament of North Korea's weapons of mass destruction is clear," White House spokesperson Scott Stanzel said without elaborating.

The North Korean official said the North was willing to resolve US security concerns if Washington recognizes the North's sovereignty, assures it of nonaggression and does not hinder its economic development.

However, he said the United States planned a pre-emptive nuclear strike on North Korea, and for that reason "the DPRK was entitled to possess not only nuclear weapon but any type of weapon more powerful than that so as to defend its sovereignty and right to existence."

He said North Korea preferred negotiations over the use of "deterrent force."

Koh Yu-hwan, a North Korea expert at Dongguk University in Seoul, said he believed US preparations for a possible war against Iraq have heightened North Korean fears that their country is also a potential target. *AP*

Japanese solon stabbed to death

TOKYO—A Japanese opposition lawmaker known for his aggressive probing into ruling party scandals was stabbed to death on Friday in what could be Japan's first political assassination in more than four decades.

Police said Democratic Party politician Koki Ishii, 61, was attacked in front of his home in central Tokyo by an unidentified man in his 50s who ran away.

With the perpetrator still on the run, the motive for the crime was unclear.

But it was a rare case of deadly violence against a politician in a land that saw its last assassination of a lawmaker in 1960 when a Socialist leader was killed by a right-wing youth.

Media reports said Ishii had been about to step into his car when a man wearing a red bandana approached and stabbed him, apparently with a sashimi knife, without saying anything.

The reports said the man had been seen outside Ishii's home for about two hours before the killing.

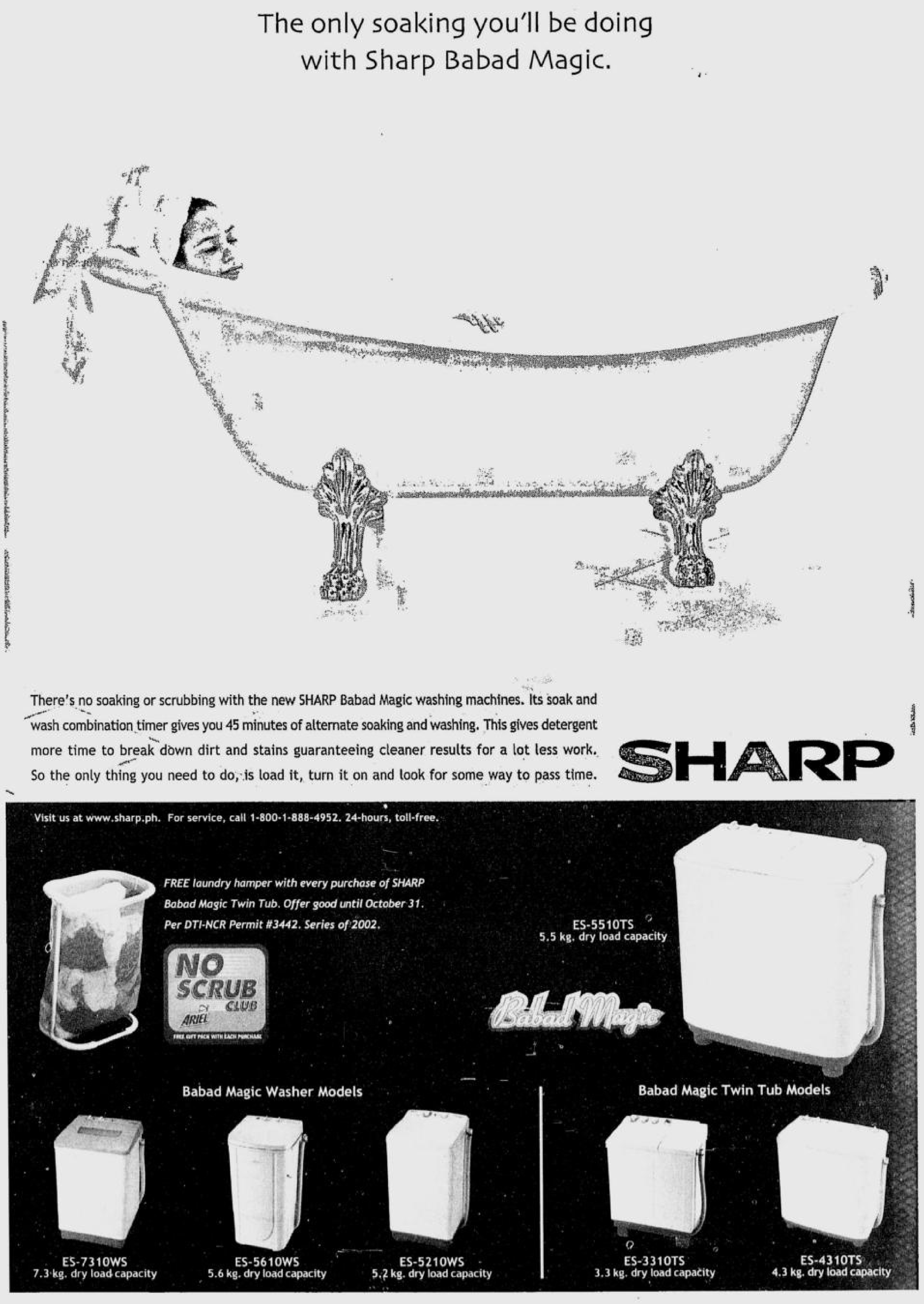
"Political activity should in no circumstances be hindered by violence. I feel very angry," Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi told reporters.

Ishii was known for his efforts to expose corruption and was head of an "anti-corruption task force" inside the Democratic Party, known as the "G-Man Squad"—a reference to a slang term for Prohibition-era gang-busting FBI agents in the United States.

"He focused on concrete issues such as construction scandals. He was a kind of prosecutor," Democratic Party lawmaker Motohisa Furukawa said.

Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party has been tainted over the years by countless corruption scandals.

Three of seven by-elections to be held on Sunday are to replace LDP lawmakers forced to step down over alleged misdeeds. *Reuters*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Relief in US as end to shooting spree seen

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ROCKVILLE, Maryland—Police have arrested a Gulf War veteran and a teenager in the Washington-area sniper attacks that killed 10 and wounded three as area residents breathed a collective sigh of relief at the end of the three-week shooting spree.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation said ballistics tests had matched the rifle found in the suspects' car to the 13 attacks.

Ending one of the biggest criminal manhunts of the past decade, a tactical team early Thursday detained John Allen Muhammad, 41, and John Lee Malvo, 17, as they slept in a car at a highway rest stop in Maryland, north of Washington.

Muhammad was later charged with a federal firearms violation not connected to the sniper killings. Malvo appeared before a juvenile court. But police said both were the official suspects in the shootings that had terrorized the Washington region since Oct. 2.

Ballistics tests had shown that bullets from the Bushmaster .223-caliber semi-automatic rifle found in their car were used in eight of the 10 murders and the three woundings, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agent Mike Bouchard said.

He said tests on two of the murder victims had proved inconclusive.

Some media reports said the trunk lid of the car had been modified making it possible to fire shots from inside.

"We now consider them suspects in the string of shootings in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia," Montgomery County police chief Charles Moose, who coordinated the hunt, triumphantly said.

President George W. Bush congratulated Moose by telephone as he was heading to his Texas ranch for a summit Friday with Chinese President Jiang Zemin, a Bush spokesperson Ari Fleischer said.

In a written statement, Bush said "the entire nation is grateful to all of the local, state and federal law enforcement officials who have worked with such urgency and with so little rest to solve the sniper case."

Relieved school officials in Montgomery County on Washington's northern border, where all outdoor activities had been shut down, immediately issued a statement saying Friday would see a return to normalcy.

Many of the shootings had occurred in the county.

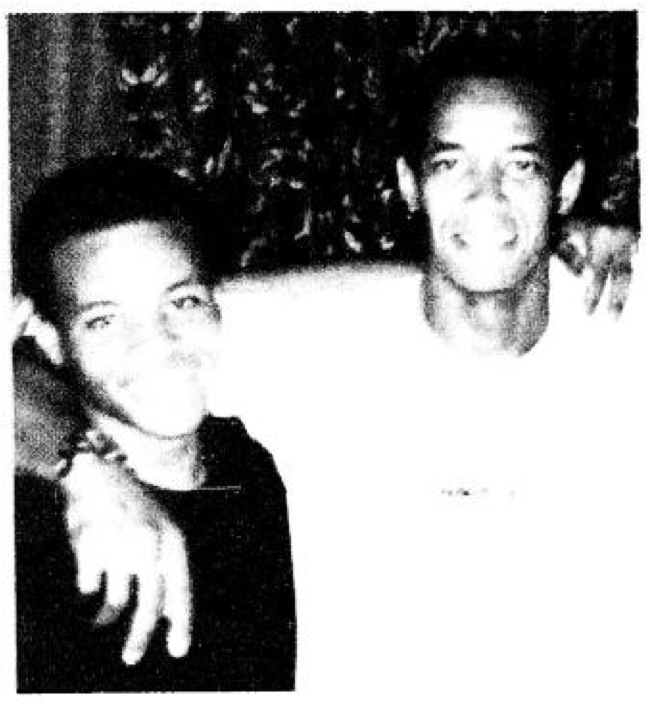
State and federal prosecutors were to meet early Friday to discuss criminal charges against the pair.

An alert was issued for a 1990 Chevrolet Caprice late Wednesday and within an hour, truck driver Ron Lancz saw the car with the men sleeping inside about 70 km northwest of Washington.

Lancz said he blocked the car's exit with his truck while he waited for police, who took the two into custody without incident.

The investigation, which had been marked by tensions with the media over leaked accounts and public unease over the lack of progress, gathered pace Wednesday.

Federal agents searched a home in Tacoma, in the west coast state of Washington, where they took away a tree trunk neighbors said may have been used for target practice. *AFP*


FORMER US soldier John Allen Muhammad (right), a Gulf War veteran, and 17 year-old John Lee Malvo, both suspects in the Washington area sniper slayings, are seen in this undated handout photo. REUTERS

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Napakadaling sumali! Lahat ay puwedeng mag-join sa contest na ito:

1. Manood lang ng PBA games tuwing Wednesday, Friday at Sunday sa IBC Channel 13 at abangan ang "COOL PIPOL" of the Week promo spots.
2. Isulat sa isang papel ang inyong name, address, tel. no., signature, ang week # na inyong sinasalihan at ang inyong sagot. Ilagay ito sa isang white envelope kalakip ang tatlong (3) empty wrappers ng Mentos Cool Chews* pillowpacks.
3. Isulat sa envelope ang inyong return address at ipadala ang inyong entries sa:

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4. Maaari ring ihulog ang inyong mga entries sa mga drop boxes sa leading supermarkets.

Schedule ng Weekly & Grand Draws:

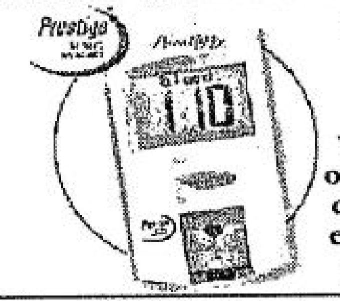
Catch the "COOL PIPOL" of the Week on these dates:		Draw Dates	Announcement of Winners
Week # 1	Aug. 23, 25 & 28	Aug. 30	Sept. 1
Week # 2	Aug. 30, Sept. 1 & 4	Sept. 6	Sept. 8
Week # 3	Oct. 20 & 23	Oct. 25	Oct. 27
Week # 4	Oct. 25, 27 & 30	Oct. 31	Nov. 3
Week # 5	Nov. 1, 3 & 6	Nov. 8	Nov. 10
Week # 6	Nov. 8, 10 & 13	Nov. 15	Nov. 17
Week # 7	Nov. 15, 17 & 20	Nov. 22	Nov. 24
Week # 8	Nov. 22, 24 & 27	Nov. 29	Dec. 1
Week # 9	Nov. 29, Dec 1 & 4	Dec. 6	Dec. 8
Week # 10	Dec. 6, 8 & 11	Dec. 13	Dec. 15
Grand Draw		Dec. 18	Dec. 21

Per DOH-BFAD permit # 0716 series of 2002

RULES AND REGULATIONS:
- Bawat contestant ay maaaring manalo nang isang beses lang sa weekly draws. May tatlong (3) winners lang bawat weekly draw: Isa mula sa GMA, isa sa Luzon at isa rin sa Vis-Min.
- May chance pang manalo sa Grand Draw sa December 18, 2002 dahil lahat ng entries sa weekly draws ay qualified pa rin sa Grand Draw.
- May isang winner lang bawat area (GMA, Luzon, Vis-Min) para sa major prizes sa Grand Draw. Ang major prizes ay Philips Home Theater Systems with 29-inch Power Vision TVs (1st Prize), Philips Fisio 820 cellphones (2nd Prize) at Philips DVD players (3rd Prize).
- Isa lang ang mananalo ng GRAND PRIZE na Toyota Echo Verso. Pipiliin ang winner sa pinagsama-samang entries mula sa GMA, Luzon at Vis-Min areas.
- Ang mga sumusunod ay hindi maaaring sumali sa raffle: Mga empleyado ng Perfetti Van Melle Phils., Inc., Carat Phils., McKenzie Distribution Co., Inc. (& subdistributors), mga ad & promo agencies ng nabanggit, pati na rin ang kanilang pamilya, at mga kamag-anak hanggang "second degree of affinity & consanguinity."
- Lahat ng prizes ay tax-free.
- Hindi maaaring i-convert sa cash ang mga prizes.
- Ang mga winners ay tatawagan o padadalhan ng registered mail kung paano makukuha ang kanilang prizes.
- Ang premyong hindi na-claim o nakuha sa loob ng 60 days matapos mapadalhan ng sulat ay idedeklarang "forfeited."
- Ang deadline sa pagsubmit ng entries ay sa December 14, 2002.
- Para sa iba pang impormasyon, maaari rin kayong mag-email sa: *coolchews@ph.pvmgrp.com*

TATLONG LAMIG... SA BIBIG !

FALL SALE FOR DIABETICS



From today until end of November 2002, Health for Life, Inc. together with Watsons Drugstores, is offering the Prestige line of blood glucose testing equipment and supplies at special FALL prices.

1. PURCHASE THREE (3) PACKAGES OF 50 PRESTIGE TEST STRIPS AND RECEIVE A FREE PRESTIGE METER, CARRYING CASE, A "LITE TOUCH" LANCING DEVICE AND LANCETS.
TOTAL COST " P 4200.00
2. TRADE-IN THE METER YOU USE NOW AND PURCHASE ONLY TWO (2) PACKAGES OF 50 PRESTIGE TEST STRIPS AND RECEIVE THE SAME FREE PRESTIGE METER, AS ABOVE.
TOTAL COST " P 2800.00

IN ADDITION, A SPECIAL "BUY ONE AND GET ONE FREE" SALE WILL BE OFFERED:
BUY ANY SINGLE "D-CARE" FOOT OR SKIN CARE PRODUCT AND RECEIVE A FREE TUBE OF ANTI FUNGAL CREAM
A P 350.00 SAVING

THESE SPECIAL OFFERS ARE AVAILABLE AT:
ALL Watsons DRUGSTORES IN METRO MANILA
IN METRO MANILA, OR CALL 851-3574 / 76 OR FAX 851-4510
FOR FREE HOME DELIVERY IN METRO MANILA

Cadbury SLOT CAR GRAND PRIX
Buy Cadbury Panned Chocolates and get a chance to race slot cars on October 27 at the Shangri-La Mall
BLACK FOREST
Cadbury Cookies
Break
TimeOut
Cadbury
Free Style
Chocolates

Sponsors: THE HOBBY SHOP · Kodak Express · Junior Inquirer · Shangri-La Plaza · 103.5 · 96.3 · MAGIC 89.9

Al-Qaida may attack US again, FBI warns nation

WASHINGTON—The FBI sent out a national alert to law enforcement officials on Thursday, warning that al-Qaida may be planning another attack on the United States, possibly targeting the railway sector.

The FBI also cited possible future attacks against the global petroleum sector and said US intelligence continues to receive general threats on the airline and maritime industries, the financial sector and government facilities and installations.

The FBI said it distributed the warning across the country on Wednesday, citing information from recent debriefings of detained al-Qaida members.

It said al-Qaida has considered directly targeting US passenger trains, possibly using operatives who have a Western appearance.

"The US intelligence community continues to assess that al-Qaida plans to attack targets that they believe will be readily recognized as representing US economic interests," the FBI said in the warning message sent out 13 months after the deadly attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

"Additional information suggests operatives may try a variety of other attack strategies such as destroying key rail bridges and sections of track to cause derailments or targeting hazardous material containers."

It said recently captured al-Qaida photographs of US railroad engines, cars and crossings heightened the intelligence community's concern of the threat.

The United States has blamed Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida network for the Sept. 11, 2001, hijacked airliner attacks on the United States that killed about 3,000 people.

Due to a lack of specificity about the method, location or timing of any possible attacks, the nation's overall level of alert remained unchanged, the FBI said. It stands at "elevated" or "yellow"—the middle of the five-point scale indicating a "significant risk of terrorist attacks."

Earlier this week US officials asked the oil, gas and transportation sectors to take additional steps to protect their facilities from possible terrorist attacks.

In its statement on Thursday, the FBI said the recent attack on a French oil tanker off the coast of Yemen and information from al-Qaida detainees suggest plans exist to continue attacks against the global oil industry.

"According to this information, al-Qaida plans to weaken the petroleum industry by conducting additional sea based attacks against large oil tankers and that such attacks may be a part of more extensive operations against port facilities and other energy-related targets including oil facilities and nuclear power plants," it said.

Gordon Johndroe, spokesperson for the Office of Homeland Security, said the government was addressing the latest threats and urged Americans to continue to ride trains.

"The American people should continue to ride our rail system," he said. "This warning has been sent to the appropriate law enforcement and security officials so they can take action to improve the protective measures for our nation's railway system." *Reuters*

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HOSTED BY Bro. Eli Soriano

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New Mideast peace drive falters

JERUSALEM—The latest international push for Middle East peace faltered on Thursday when Israeli and Palestinian leaders raised objections to a "roadmap" presented by US envoy William Burns.

It was the first major US diplomatic mission to the region for months, but was widely regarded here as a stopgap bid to contain violence to help Washington woo Arab support for a possible war on Iraq, rather than a propitious peace initiative.

On the second day of his trip, Burns held talks with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in Jerusalem and Israeli Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer in Tel Aviv. He also met Palestinian officials in the West Bank city of Jericho.

But expectations were low after two years of bloodshed in a Palestinian uprising for independence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and a string of abortive international peace missions.

Both sides were wary of the plan, called a "roadmap" by the international quartet of peacemakers that drafted it. Israeli leaders said it lacked security guarantees while Palestinians said it needed timetables and enforcement mechanisms.

The plan envisages an end to violence, Palestinian reforms and Israeli army withdrawals from occupied cities, leading to a final settlement and Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza by 2005.

Ben-Eliezer, echoing Sharon's view leaked by aides before Burns arrived, said the plan had positive elements but no firm provisions to ensure militant violence would not resume if Israeli troops vacated West Bank cities.

"He also stressed that Israel maintains its right to defend itself and will not agree to limitations on that score by any particular 'roadmap'," a statement by Ben-Eliezer's office said.

Although Sharon's office did not issue a statement after his meeting with Burns, Israel Army Radio said the prime minister welcomed the plan but disagreed with some of its elements. *Reuters*

Mossad killed British tycoon, book claims

LOS ANGELES—British media tycoon Robert Maxwell was murdered by the Israeli secret services, according to a new book, which also alleges that the flamboyant millionaire was an Israeli spy and had links to organized crime in Eastern Europe.

"Robert Maxwell, Israel's Superspy," to be published in December by Carroll and Graf, claims that Mossad decided to get rid of Maxwell because he was threatening to expose his knowledge of Israeli secrets unless he received Israeli help in propping up his failing businesses.

Maxwell's sudden death at sea in Nov. 1991 off the Canary Islands brought about the collapse of his worldwide publishing empire and triggered theories ranging from suicide, murder or accident.

He disappeared overboard just as the complex web of financial deals keeping his businesses afloat was beginning to unravel and a few weeks after US investigative journalist Seymour Hersh published a book claiming Maxwell had close ties with the Israeli secret services.

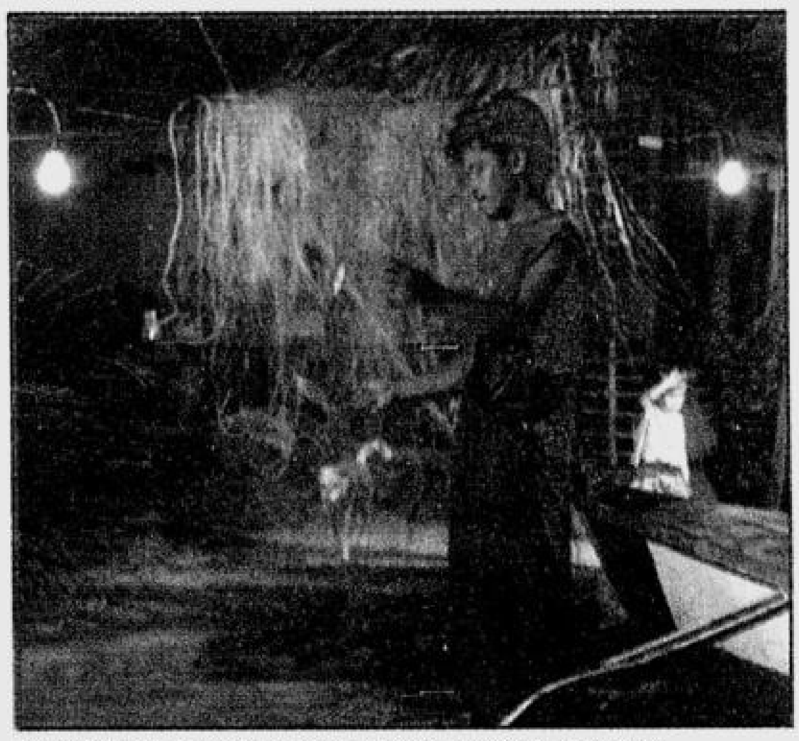
The new book, by British thriller writer Gordon Thomas and Irish journalist Martin Dillon claims that Maxwell was killed by Mossad agents who boarded his private yacht under cover of darkness and plunged a needle filled with a lethal nerve agent into Maxwell's neck. They then lowered his body off the deck and into the sea. *Reuters*

Mirant promotes partnership for brighter future in the countryside

By: Mia M. Cabacungan

FROM the late 1980's until 1993, the Philippines experienced a harrowing shortage of electricity that crippled thousands of businesses and disrupted the lives of millions of Filipinos.

At that difficult period in our nation's history, Mirant Philippines was the first to respond to the call for private sector assistance to resolve the power crisis. Mirant Philippines developed a partnership with the Philippine government that pioneered the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) concept in the country and set a precedent for private sector participation in power generation and in resolving the country's power dilemma.



Barangay folk can work at night because of Project BEACON.

Today, Mirant Philippines has again embarked on a mission to help address the root causes of poverty in our depressed communities, focusing on rural electrification, education, health and livelihood. Through the Mirant Philippines Foundation, its implementing arm for its corporate social responsibility programs, Mirant has launched its biggest social project so far.

In partnership with the Department of Energy's (DOE) Accelerated Barangay Electrification or "O-Ilaw" program, Mirant Philippines, through Project BEACON, has heeded the call to provide basic electricity to the rural countryside (area). Through extension of the grid or use of new and renewable energy facilities, Project BEACON aims to hasten rural development and serve as a catalyst of growth in the countryside.

Through Project BEACON (Barangay Electrification Assistance to the Countryside), Mirant will have energized 1,026 far-flung and isolated barangays by the 4th quarter of this year. When completed, this rural electrification project will have cost an estimated P1 billion (US$20 million).

Considered as the largest corporate social responsibility initiative ever undertaken by a single corporation, Project BEACON will benefit 33 provinces and 44 electric cooperatives covering some 300,000 households nationwide by providing electricity where it is most needed.

Since early this year, Project BEACON has closely coordinated with the DOE, the National Electrification Administration (NEA) and other small electric cooperatives to literally "light up the nation" and trigger economic development that will improve the quality of life in the barangays.

Business leadership means community leadership

Mirant sees business leadership as community leadership as well. A deep commitment to the communities it serves is Mirant's core objective in all its projects and activities. Through environmental, health and educational programs, Mirant has been making more lives better.

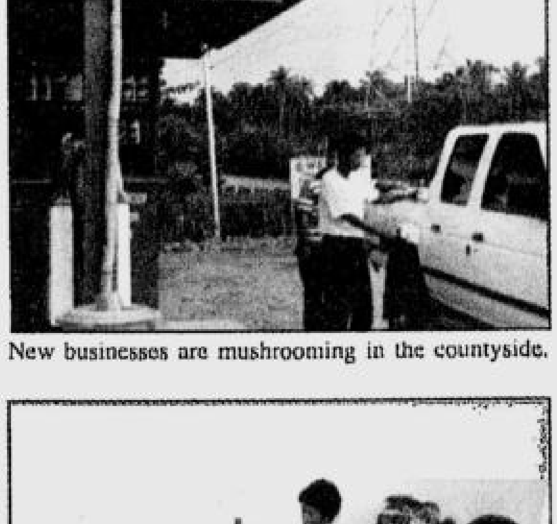
To help protect the environment, Mirant has implemented a five-year water-shed rehabilitation program at its Pagbilao Power Station in a tie-up with the Department of Environment and National Resources (DENR) and the Binahaan residents. With DENR measuring stream flow and water quality, Mirant has achieved a water-shed area monitoring milestone with the creation of a telemetry station.

To sustain indigenous forests and mangroves, Mirant helped in developing the four-hectare Tulay-Buhangin and Kanlurang Malicboy Mangrove Reforestation Project. In partnership with the DENR, these environmental project is a community-based forest management effort participated in by local residents.

Mirant Philippines Foundation has also forged partnerships with the academe and other concerned private institutions—reputable information technology (IT) institutions—to help strengthen the IT curriculum and learning infrastructures in many public schools in the rural areas: This is Mirant's aim: to help improve local education and empower the youth through related programs.

But more than the company, Mirant employees have volunteered their time to work with the affected local communities. They have organized medical missions, provided classrooms and supported skills-building programs, and helped schools improve mathematics and science education among pupils.

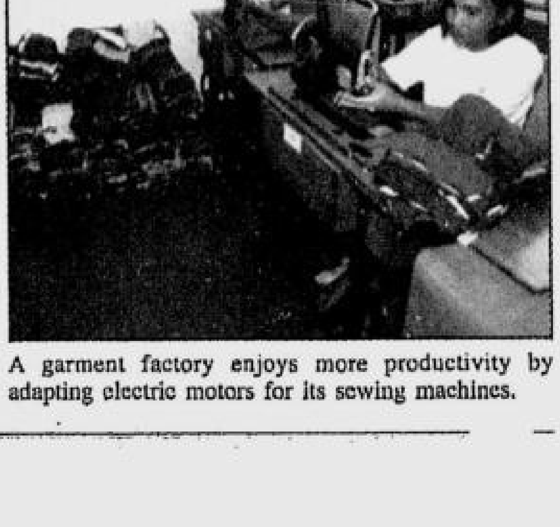
Now, with Mirant's Project BEACON, some 1.5 million Filipinos in 300,000 households will no longer be groping in the dark. A noble program by itself, Project BEACON is expected to promote brighter tomorrows and incite economic growth in the countryside. Our "enlightened" countryside, which will be realized by year 2006, will soon become more empowered than before. This way, our country can now move forward and remain a robust player in the Asia Pacific region.



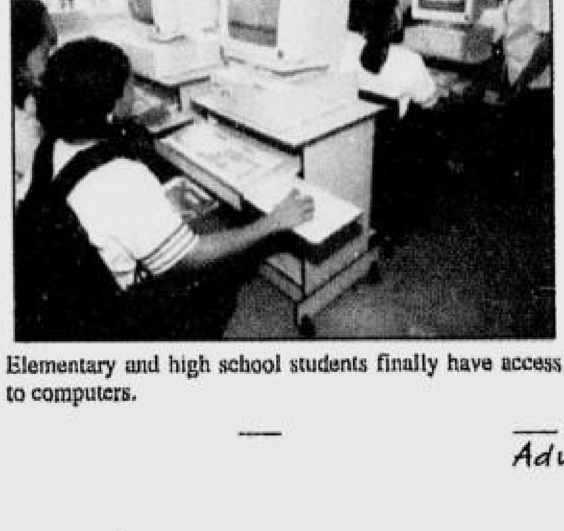
New businesses are mushrooming in the countyside.

An entrepreneur was able to build a boat in Barangay Peñafrancia, Camarines Sur.

Rural electrification has ushered cottage industries in the barrios.



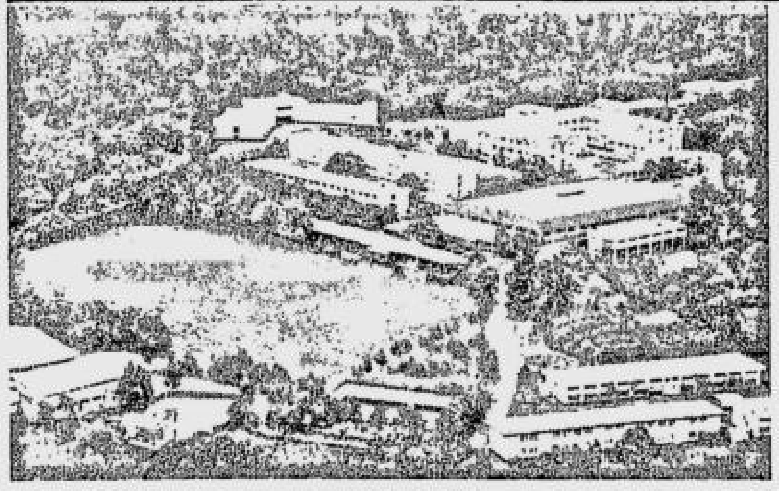
A garment factory enjoys more productivity by adapting electric motors for its sewing machines.



Elementary and high school students finally have access to computers.

Advt.

PMA 104th Foundation Anniversary



MESSAGES

MALACAÑAN PALACE
Manila

I CONVEY my warmest felicitations to the men and women of the Philippine Military Academy. This festive occasion that marks your 104th Foundation Anniversary signifies more than a century of service to the Filipino nation.

Through the years, the Philippine Military Academy has kept pace with the nation in providing professional leadership in the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

As PMA enters its 105th year, let us continue the tradition of writing chapters of our history that parallels the growth and life of the Philippines. Let me exhort you to remain steadfast with your commitment with our people and nation.

Congratulations and carry on!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

ON THE OCCASION of the 104th Foundation Anniversary of the Philippine Military Academy, I extend my very best wishes to the Command leadership, officers, faculty, enlisted personnel, civilian employees and cadets.

As we celebrate another milestone in the history of the Philippine Military Academy, I propose atoast to the men and women of this constitution whose vision has not wavered over the years .

As we celebrate the partnership that promises greater success in the years ahead, I urge you to forge forward with courage and firm belief in yourselves, believing that our industry and perseverance shall enable us to sustain our achievements and respond effectively to the challenges that the Academy faces.

Cheers and Congratulations.

ANGELO T. REYES
Secretary

CHIEF OF STAFF
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

THE PHILIPPINE Military Academy has been the primary source of officers in the Armed Forces of the Philippines. For over a century now, the Academy has consistently and vigorously pursued its vision and mission.

On the occasion of its 104th foundation anniversary, allow me to greet the men and women of this revered institution. You have guided the cadets in nurturing, not only dedication and loyalty to the service, but also in imbibing the ideals of Courage, Integrity and Loyalty . As the membership to the prestigious Long Gray Line multiples, the PMA still remains as the bastion of professionalism and excellence.

With the Philippine Military Academy as an active component, the Armed Forces of the Philippines guided by the precept "One force. One fight. One future." stands tall and proud to be the vanguard of progress, prosperity and nation building.

Congratulations once again and *Mabuhay*!

BENJAMIN P DEFENSOR
General AFP

Philippine Military Academy
Fort del Pilar 2602 Baguio City, Philippines
Tel. Nos. (+6374) 447-[illegible]/447-[illegible]/447-[illegible]

History of the Philippine Military Academy

The history of the Philippine Military Academy begins when General Emilio Aguinaldo, the first president of the Philippine Republic issued a decree on 25 October 1898 creating the Academia Militar in Malolos, Bulacan. The school would award its graduates regular commissions in the armed forces. Unfortunately, hostilities between the Americans and Filipinos erupted on 20 January 1899 and the operations of the Academia Militar were abruptly stopped.

The PMA's historical narrative resumes with the establishment of an Officer's school of the Philippine Constabulary on 17 August 1905 in Intramuros, Manila. Three years later, on 01 September 1908, the school was relocated to Baguio City. On 08 September 1926, the school was renamed Philippine Constabulary Academy and its curriculum was lengthened to three years by virtue of Act No. 3496 passed by the Philippine Legislature.

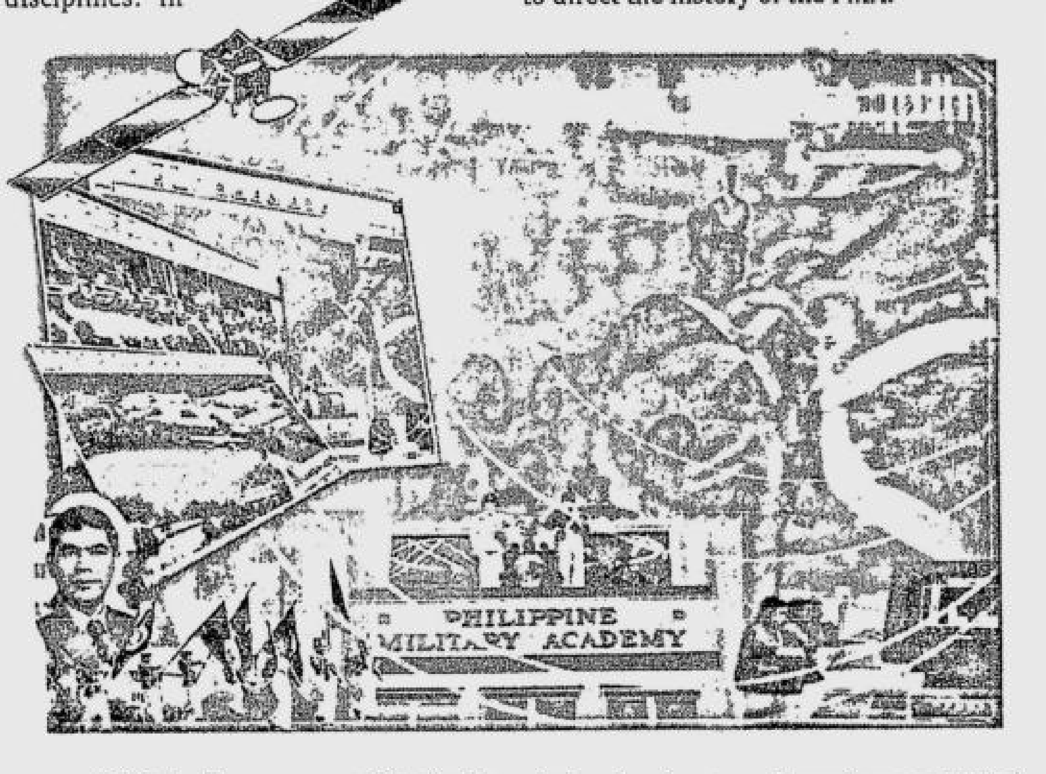
On 21 December 1936, Commonwealth Act No. 1 (also known as the National Defense Act) was passed. Among other provisions, the law formally created the Philippine Military Academy and authorized it to confer a Bachelor of Science degree on its graduates. However, World War II broke out in December 1941 and classes 1942 and 1943 were "graduated" ahead of schedule so that the graduates could be assigned to combat units in different parts of the country.

After the war, the Academy reopened at Camp Henry T Allen on 05 May 1947. Because the place proved to be too small to meet the requirements of the military training, the Academy transferred to its present site, Fort del Pilar, Loakan in 1950. Here, the cadets continued to go through a four-year curriculum and training that was mostly patterned from that of the United States Military Academy at West Point.

In the 1960's, the curriculum underwent major changes. Socio-humanistic courses were added or strengthened to balance the techno-scientific disciplines, with a view towards providing a well-rounded education that was relevant to the needs of the growing AFP.

In 1993, the Philippine Military Academy was transformed into a 'Tri-Service Academy', so that PMA graduates would be 'field-ready', 'fleet-ready', or 'squadron-ready' immediately upon graduation. The cadets were given specialization courses, which were service-specific in nature. In addition, they were also allowed to major in specialized academic disciplines. In the same year, the first female cadets were admitted into the Academy in accordance with Republic Act 7192.

Today, the curriculum and the training of the Philippine Military Academy continue to evolve as the institution that adapts to the dynamic nature of the Armed Forces and the Philippine society. In the face of all these changes however, the mission to "*instruct, train, and develop the cadets so that they shall possess the character, the broad and basic military skills, and the education essential to the successful pursuit of a progressive military career*" remains the beacon that continues to direct the history of the PMA.



The Philippine Military Academy Today

> *"If one does things the way he has always been doing, he will be getting results he has always been getting."*
> *-Anonymous*

THE PHILIPPINE Military Academy, like any other institution that has seen a thousand seasons, is understandably traditional. It tends to be customary and rely on its long history and steeped traditions as a prescription of doing things – even if it may already seem superfluous. Add to its being a military organization, PMA is naturally a closed organization and, therefore, resistant to change. The cadets and even the Alumni will, expectedly, shun anything and everything new. But like the idea of accepting female cadets and the prospect of lady officers in the frontlines of military operations, some practices and traditions in the academy need to be reviewed, its futility validated. Then the surging question was asked: "Is PMA still relevant?"

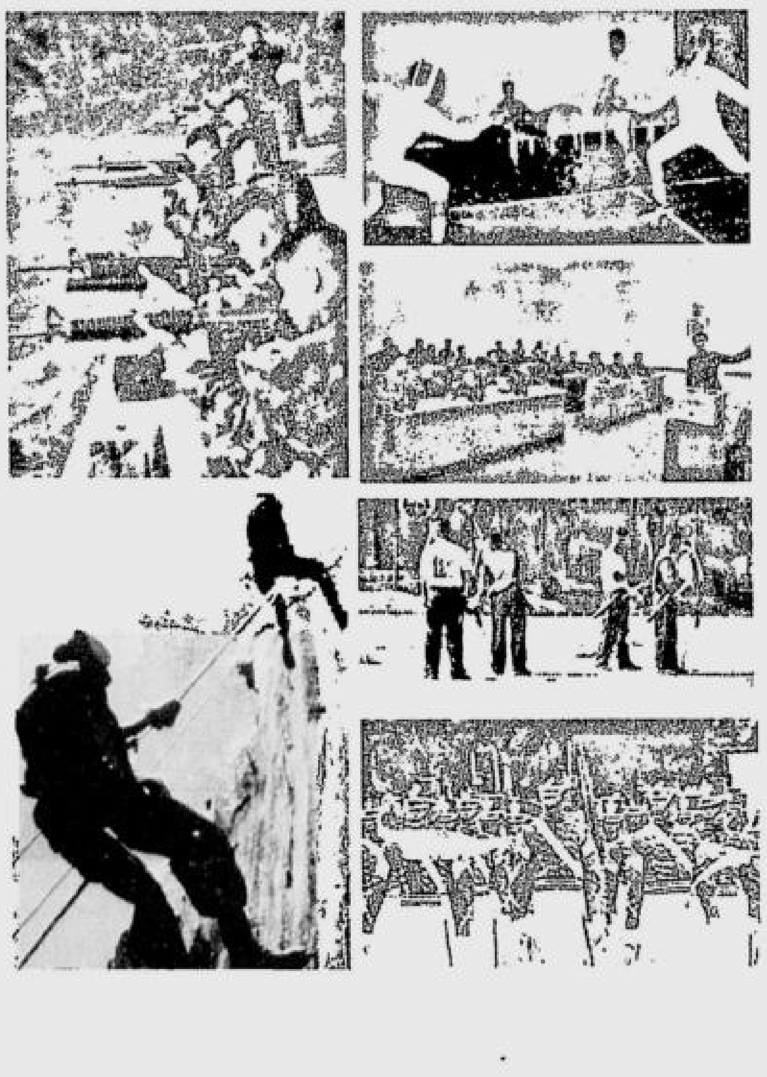
The *Akademia Militar* that was born before the turn of the 20th century, is vastly the same Philippine Military Academy that the country has today – with some modifications in the name of the school, the degree offered, the shade of uniform. But apart from that, the Academy is essentially the same with respect to the systems, practices, and regulations as they were 104 years ago. The Academic curriculum for instance has bloated to as high as 237 units as against the 144-unit requirement by the Commission on Higher Education to confer a Bachelor of Science degree. Above this, the cadets are expected to hurdle a tough military training and pass a physically exhaustive training in a very regimented life. The result is a high attrition rate.

To begin with, the Academy came up with the Nine-Point Development Strategy comprised of: (1) Creation of a Center For Character Development; (2) Creation of a Center for Academic Excellencet; (3) Creation of a Center for Physical Fitness and Sports Development; (4) Cadet Empowerment: The Cadets as Agents of Reform; (5) Curriculum Development; (6) Responsive Faculty Recruitment and Development Programs; (7) Improvement of the Cadet Procurement System; (8) Establishment of the PMA Trust Fund and the; (9) Reactivation of the PMA Board of Visitors. The first five of these nine-point program were already launched in the early 2001.

In the occasion of the celebration of PMA's 104th Foundation Anniversary, the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) embarks on a serious "introspection" in the first ever Stakeholders' Conference. The objective was to capture the perceptions and expectations of PMA and its graduates by Philippine Society. The insights gained would be invaluable in validating PMA's present trusts, help guide its future direction, and feed into the ongoing review of the overloaded PMA Curriculum.

Representatives from the various sectors of the Philippine society were called it to the conference to represent the biggest "investors" of the PMA – the Filipino nation. A choice of eminent speakers who were invited to deliver a paper on their views on the theme "PMA in the Life of the Nation" comprised of the AFP Chief-of-Staff General Benjamin P Defensor AFP; Development Bank of the Philippines Director, Professor Alex Magno; the President and CEO of Concepcion Group of Industries, Mr. Raul Concepcion; Ayala Foundation President, Ms. Victoria P. Garchitorena; Tagaytay City Mayor, Hon. Francis Tolentino; and RPN Channel-9 Chair, Mr. Cerge Remonde; representing the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the PMA Alumni, the academe, business, women, local government, and media respectively.

The PMA today has embarked on serious moves to prepare its graduates in the realm of the fast changing concepts of warfare and its increments; the here and now information technology; and the current economic, social and political milieu. The PMA must re-assess its systems, practices, customs and traditions it holds dear and determine its relevance – or face antiquity and fade to oblivion.



SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

26 October 2002

0700H - Flag Raising with Awarding Ceremony
- Message of the Superintendent, PMA
0915H - Arrival Honors for the Secretary of National Defense
HONORABLE **ANGELO T REYES**
1000H - Parade and Awarding Ceremony
- Choral Group Presentation (CCAFP)
- Signing of Memorandum of Agreement between PMA and Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority
- Remarks and Introduction of the Guest of Honor by
BGEN EDILBERTO P ADAN AFP
Superintendent, PMA
- Message of the Guest of Honor
1200H - Lunch
1300H - Departure Honors for the Guest of Honor
1900H - Formal Dinner

The PMA at a Glance

COURSES OFFERED

Bachelor of Science (Majors in Army Studies, Naval Studies and Air Studies)

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

September 22 or every third Sunday of September

ADMISSION DATE

April 1 of each year

BASIC QUALIFICATIONS

- Natural born Filipino citizen
- Of good moral character
- Single and never been married
- 5 feet 4 inches if male; 5 feet 2 inches if female
- At least 17 but not more than 22 years old by 01 April of the year of admission
- At least high school senior with an average of 80 % or higher
- Physically fit for PMA Cadet training

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'Jueteng' take–P13B yearly

By Yolanda Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DAGUPAN CITY—Jueteng may be a "poor man's game" but the annual collection from it, estimated by the police at P10 billion-P13 billion, is enough to pay the country's P300-billion foreign debt in 25 years, Interior Secretary Jose Lina said here.

He said other agencies' estimates on annual jueteng collection are higher at P35 billion annually.

Lina was here Thursday as guest during a seminar-workshop of the Krusadang Bayan-Jueteng Free Philippines sponsored by the Department of Interior and Local Government and the Lingayen-Dagupan archdiocese.

But where does this poor man's money go?

Lina said the people must not believe the reason of some local officials that the money goes back to their constituents who usually ask for financial assistance for medicines, weddings, funerals and baptisms.

Politicians

"It's true that the politicians give a certain amount to the people, but what they give is very minimal as compared to what they keep for themselves. They usually use the money to strengthen their political power," Lina said.

He said bettors must think twice that they are not affected by what local officials are doing with the money "because a corrupt leadership affects everyone."

Lina said "legal reforms" should be instituted to stop jueteng.

He said the penalty imposed on violators must be increased. Arrested bet collectors are fined from P400 to P1,000 or imprisoned for two years to four years. Financiers on the other hand, are fined P6,000 or imprisoned for four years and a day to six years.

"With the billions of pesos collected from jueteng, that amount is nothing," Lina said.

He also cited effective law enforcement, giving alternative livelihood and a strong moral crusade as factors that could contribute to the eradication of the illegal numbers game.

"When the officials accept protection money (from jueteng operators), they have lost their moral ascendancy (to govern)," he said.

"From the bottom to the top hierarchy of the jueteng organization, money and good talk are used to keep the money coming, and along the way corrupting everybody," he said.

Jueteng experience

Lina recalled that as a young boy, a jueteng collector went to his family's sari-sari store daily and told him to bet on a favorite number combination.

"When I was minding the store, the collector would come to entice me to bet, 'Mag-alaga ka ng numero' (Bet on this combination diligently). So I got money from the store and bet on the numbers 4-28 for several days. Since I did not win, I stopped," he said.

But on the day he did not bet, his number won and the collector blamed him.

"Kaya tumaya ako ulit. Gagawin ka talagang addict (I decided to bet again. Jueteng will make you addicted to gambling)," he said.

He said he forgot jueteng when he was in high school.

While he was governor of Laguna, he said he was offered P2 million a month by jueteng operators in the province.

When he refused, the amount offered was doubled, "retroactive to the past six months," he said.

Cell relay station attacked after firm rejects NPA tax

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

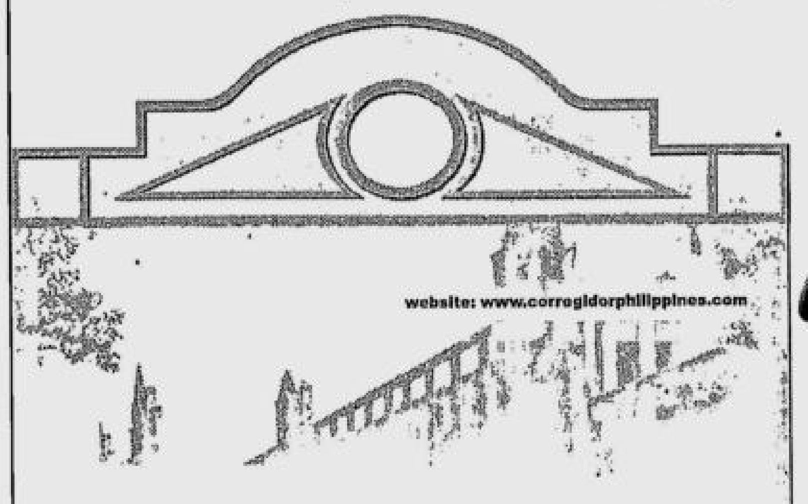
LOON, Bohol—Eight suspected rebels set fire to a cabin and generator inside the Globelines relay station in Barangay Song-on of this town Wednesday night, completely destroying equipment of still undetermined amount.

The rebels also confiscated the a .38-cal. revolver of the lone guard identified as Carlito Cuizon, two cellular phones and a radio handset of a lineman of the Bohol Electric Cooperative (Boheco) I, who happened to be at the site at the time of attack.

Initial investigation point to the Globelines management's refusal to pay revolutionary tax as the motive for the burning, which took place about 9:35 p.m. on Oct. 23.

The guard told the police that the attackers introduced themselves as New People's Army rebels.

Now, you have two ways to enjoy your long break!



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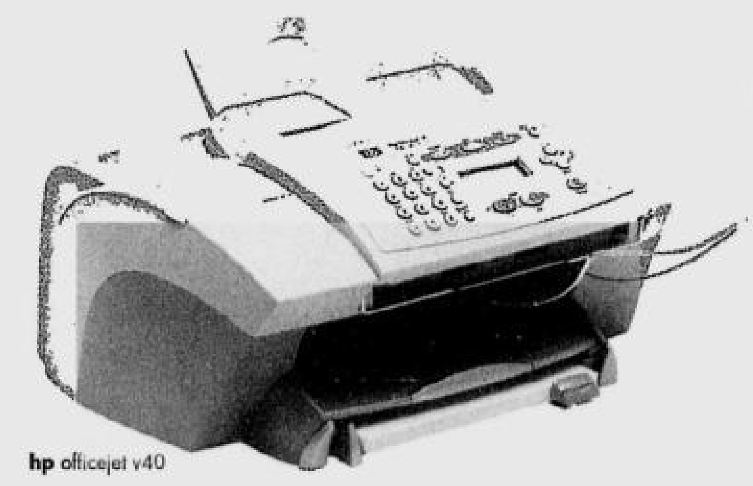
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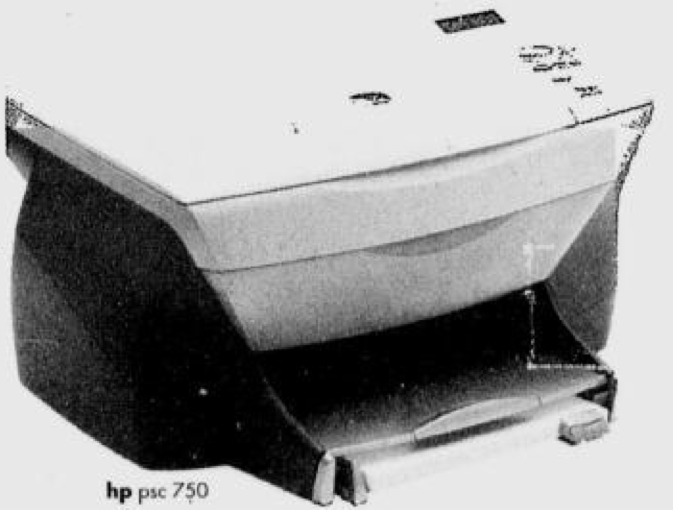
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Men at Large
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GMA
NETWORK

DAR orders installation of farmers at Benedicto property in Negros

THE DEPARTMENT of Agrarian Reform has already ordered the installation of a group of farmers in a piece of property owned by the family of the late Marcos ambassador Roberto Benedicto in Pontevedra, Negros Occidental.

A copy of the order, signed by Efren Moncupa, agrarian reform undersecretary for field operations and support services, said there is "no more legal impediment to the installation" of the farmers.

The order, dated Oct. 22, was addressed to Felicidad Banares, acting provincial agrarian reform officer of Negros Occidental.

It said that the installation of the farmers "should have proceeded as a matter of course without any further delay or incident."

"You are, therefore, advised to refrain from soliciting further instructions . . . if the matter could be resolved at your level," the order told Banares.

On Wednesday, 15 farmers went on hunger strike in front of the provincial agrarian reform office in Bacolod City to demand that they be installed on the Benedicto property.

The farmers, belonging to the Task Force Mapalad (TFM), have been camping out in front of the Paro office in Barangay Dauis for over a week now.

Rorie Fajardo, TFM spokesperson, said the hunger strike would go on until Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza addressed the farmers' demand.

The protesters were issued in 2000 Certificates of Land Ownership Award (Cloas) for the 242-hectare Hacienda Carmenchika in 1999 and the 61-hectare Hacienda Carmen Grande in Barangay Don Salvador Benedicto in Pontevedra town, about 50 kilometers from here, according to the TMF.

Banares has blamed the DAR head office for the delay in the farmers' installation.

Highway robbers kill 4 in Tarlac town heist

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Four men were killed in a robbery-holdup in San Manuel, Tarlac on Thursday dawn, a police report reaching here said.

The report identified three of the victims as Jose Flor, Ernesto San Agustin and driver Roland Pasag. The fourth victim's identity, whose throat was slit, is still being verified. All were reported to be residents of Barangay Perez in Bulacan, Bulacan.

Two survivors, identified as Edgar Agdane and Hannibal Caragon, and another companion Renato David, reported the killings to policemen in San Manuel town.

David, 29, said his group, on board an Isuzu truck from Baguio City, was blocked by eight armed men in Barangay San Agustin in San Manuel town at about 2:30 a.m. Thursday.

Senior Supt. Mario San Diego, Tarlac police director, said the victims were delivering chicken manure to Baguio City and were on their way to Bulacan when they were blocked by the suspects. *Tonette Orejas and Ronaldo Dizon, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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Urinating in public blamed for spread of deadly disease

By Ma.Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Men should stop urinating just anywhere to arrest the spread of *leptospirosis*, one of the dreaded rainy-day diseases here.

Dr. Jessie Glen Alonsabe, an epidemiologist at the regional health office, said men who got sick of *leptospirosis* and are cured may still carry the virus with them for six months.

Their urine may contaminate flood or stagnant water, causing the unaware to catch the disease, he added.

Leptospirosis is a waterborne disease, which is transmitted through contact with the skin, especially open wounds, with water, moist soil or vegetation contaminated with urine of infected rats and farm animals.

One may get the disease through cuts or breaks in the skin when wading in flood or coming in contact with contaminated areas like moist soil or vegetation.

The disease has flu-like symptoms that include calf and muscle pain, fever and headache. *Leptospirosis* could be fatal as it could shut down the function of the liver and kidney.

The Iloilo provincial health office here recently issued an advisory after it noticed the occurrence of the disease in the first two weeks of October.

Provincial health officer Carmen Bayate said 12 men were hospitalized from Oct. 7-14 due to *leptospirosis*. One of them, a 22-year-old native of Badiangan town, died.

Bayate said five patients came from Sta. Barbara town while the towns of Alimodian, Janiuay, Pavia, New Lucena, Sara and Zarraga had one case each.

Alonsabe said he noticed a pattern in cases of leptospirosis. The victims are men who worked in flooded rice fields to beat the dry spell caused by the El Niño phenomenon.

He said it was what happened to his neighbor, a young farmer in Alimodian town, 24 kilometers from here, who died recently also of *leptospirosis*.

He said the spread of *leptospirosis* in the farms could be blamed on rats and infected persons, often men, who urinate in their rice paddies.

Farmers work barefoot because it is cumbersome to wear boots when planting, weeding or spraying their rice fields.

"The men should be careful when they urinate because they might be spreading *leptospirosis* or *leptospirosis* organisms. That is why there should be a campaign to stop the men from urinating in public because they might spawn a rash of *leptospirosis*," said Alonsabe.

ROUNDUP

Most outstanding mayor

ILIGAN CITY—Mayor Franklin Quijano was given the Most Outstanding Mayor award in this year's Local Government Leadership Awards (LGLA) held Thursday at the Recto Hall of the Senate in Manila. Quijano bested 115 nominees from all over the country. He received a trophy and a cash prize of P100,000 which he donated to a children's museum. The LGLA was organized by various civic society groups, professionals, non-government organizations and religious groups in celebration of the 11th anniversary of the Local Government Code, the 50th anniversary of the University of the Philippines College of Public Administration and the 86th anniversary of the Senate of the Philippines.

Jeffrey P. Maningo, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Gun-for-hire killed

COTABATO CITY—An unidentified man shot and killed a suspected gun-for-hire in Barangay Bagua here on Sunday. Police identified the victim as Luminda, a resident of Sultan sa Barongis in Maguindanao. He was suspected to be a member of a gun-for-hire gang after authorities recovered in his possession photos of slain Poblacion barangay chair Charlie Quintana and Executive Director Zamzamin Ampatuan of the Office of Muslim Affairs. In early July, Quintana was shot to death by an unidentified gunman while about to hold a meeting with his village councilors. Ampatuan, a former Maguindanaoan radio commentator and administrator of the Southern Philippines Development Authority, has been receiving death threats from unidentified groups due to his critical comments on various issues.

Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Arnis in Discovery Channel

CEBU CITY—An independent producer of Discovery Channel was in Cebu City early this month to film the Filipino martial art of *arnis*. The three-member production crew of Australia-based Beyond Intl. led by Josephine McKenna profiled *arnis* as a segment in their one-hour documentary on Asia's ancient tradition of martial arts commissioned by the Discovery Channel. The profile featured *arnis* exhibitions organized by internationally acclaimed Cebuano *arnis* grand master Dionisio Canete, chair of the council of masters of the world famous *arnis* club Doce Pares and founder and chair emeritus of the 25-member country World Eskrima Kali Arnis Federation .

Elmer Karaan, PDI Visayas Bureau

Cop dies during training

OLONGAPO CITY—A policeman died while participating in a training at Kale beach here on Saturday. Police identified the victim as PO1 Ben Leano, 28, of Quezon, Nueva Ecija. Reports said Leano suffered from shortness of breath after an exercise. Leano, the reports said, went under water but complained of difficulty in breathing after five seconds. He managed to recover and was able to reach the shore. However, Leano started to vomit and fell unconscious. Fellow policemen gave him first aid treatment but they failed to revive him. Leano died while being taken to the James L. Gordon Memorial Hospital here.

Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Aide disowned by Perezes gets pay from NBI

By Mei Magsino
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

BATANGAS CITY—Rep. Francisco Perez has the legal grounds to say that Jomar Gutierrez, the alleged peddler who has been doing the rounds convincing contractors to back out of a P41-million foreign-funded road project connecting the towns of Bauan and Mabini using the name of the congressman and his father, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, is not one of his aides and has no connection with his office.

Gutierrez is not under the congressman's payroll but, according to his male cousin who requested anonymity, he is under the payroll of the National Bureau of Investigation detailed in the congressman's office.

How Gutierrez got into the NBI payroll is another question.

"It was Secretary Nani (Perez) who endorsed Jomar to the NBI," the source said.

"Jomar's task was to get funding for Nani's senatorial bid in 2004. The reports are actually very obsolete. The Bauan-Mabini road is the second project that Jomar has meddled with. The first one was the P200 million construction project that he had also rigged to be awarded to a dummy contractor that gave him fat commissions," the source further said.

Earlier, sources from the Department of Public Works and Highways disclosed that Gutierrez, who introduced himself as an aide of Rep. Perez, has been making the rounds and talking to other bidders in the project for them to withdraw.

"Ibinigay na kay Secretary (Perez) ang project na yan kaya pwede na kayong umatras (The project was already awarded to Secretary, thus, you can now back out)," Gutierrez, who is fronting for Torreja and JD Legaspi, was quoted as telling the other bidders.

JD Legaspi is the controversial contractor of the overpriced President Diosdado Macapagal Blvd. in Parañaque.

Public works officials are being pressured into awarding the contract to JD Legaspi Construction, object of a Senate Blue Ribbon committee investigation looking into the P600-million overpricing of the boulevard.

The same DPWH official disclosed that Secretary Perez had endorsed the bid of JD Legaspi for the P41-million foreign-funded road development connecting the towns of Bauan and Mabini in Batangas.

The project, an asphalt overlay spanning several kilometers, is under DPWH supervision and with funding secured by the government from the World Bank-affiliate International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

DPWH sources revealed that JD Legaspi was able to pre-qualify in the bidding for the project using as its front the Batangas-based Torreja Construction, which, in turn is being backed by Perez.

MATTERS
by Maricel Laxa-Pangilinan

MOMS NEED PAMPERING TOO!

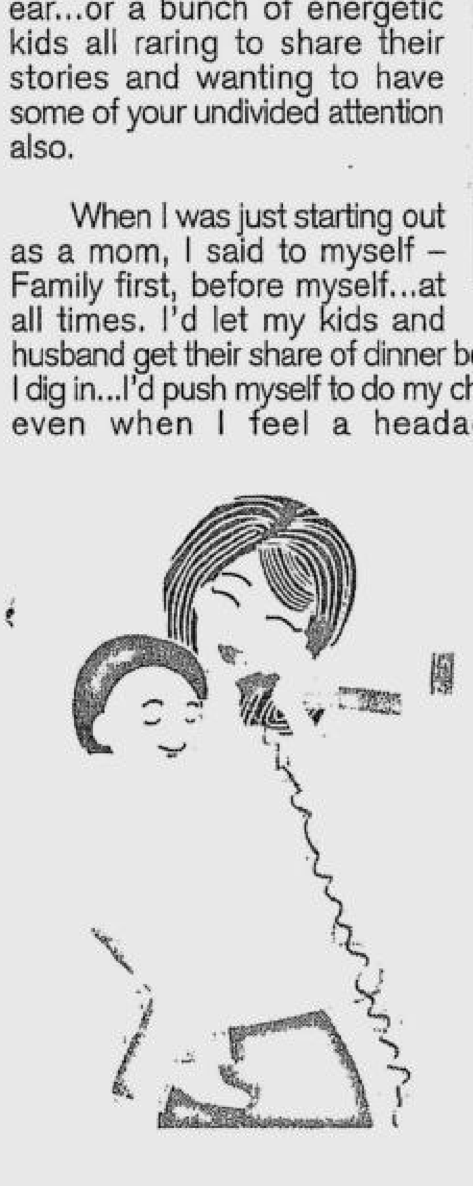
There is no such thing as a supermom. We may do our duties at a rate that's faster than a speeding bullet and juggle our roles ever so cleverly. However, at the end of the day (or sometimes, even during midday), moms do get exhausted, with their patience worn thin and with a terrible headache, too. I'd be the first to admit that during my stressed-out times, I've snapped at my loved ones and that truly made me feel worse than ever!

Which just goes to show --- MOTHERS ARE HUMAN, TOO!

Let's face it - like any other human being, we moms long to be nurtured and be made to feel special. We seek rest and appreciate a few minutes of peace and solitude to get our bearings straight. We need this before we can face a husband deadtired from work and in need of a massage and a listening ear...or a bunch of energetic kids all raring to share their stories and wanting to have some of your undivided attention also.

When I was just starting out as a mom, I said to myself – Family first, before myself...at all times. I'd let my kids and husband get their share of dinner before I dig in...I'd push myself to do my chores even when I feel a headache.

"...we long to be nurtured and be made to feel special."



Then, I realized – hey, I enjoy bonding during our family meals more on a full stomach...and yes, I am able to do more work with much better results when I'm up and about and without any pain.

And so, we must learn to take good, good care of ourselves. Love your body enough to feed it on time and with naturally healthful foods...to make it rest and recharge. I've learned to wake up before my family does to spend some moments with God and then, pamper myself with a shower, play a game of badminton or enjoy an exhilarating massage.

Most especially, I've learned not to ignore but to pay attention to any pain I feel. The minute I feel a headache coming, I take Biogesic. It's the one and only headache reliever that has worked for me all these years! I know for a fact that the medicine in Biogesic is so safe, I actually take it whenever headache strikes, even on an empty stomach. In minutes, I feel well and ready to take on anything again.

Truly, we mothers should give ourselves a dose of the love we give our family. For it is when we take good care of ourselves that we can take care of our family even much better.

Advt.

INQUIRER *Visayas*

Editor **Jun Bandayrel** ◈ *Bureau Chief* **Edralyn L. Benedicto**

The 'happy faces' of MassKara 2002

By Carla P. Gomez
Bacolod City

DANCERS wearing smiling masks filled the streets here Sunday afternoon as local and foreign tourists gathered to watch the street dancing competition to highlight the 23rd anniversary of the MassKara Festival.

Unknown to them was the tight security set up amid fears of kidnapping and bombings that had occurred in recent days in other parts of the country.

The Bacolod police got assistance from the Regional Mobile Group, the Air Force, the Navy and even from a bomb-sniffing dog, Mayor Luzviminda Valdez said.

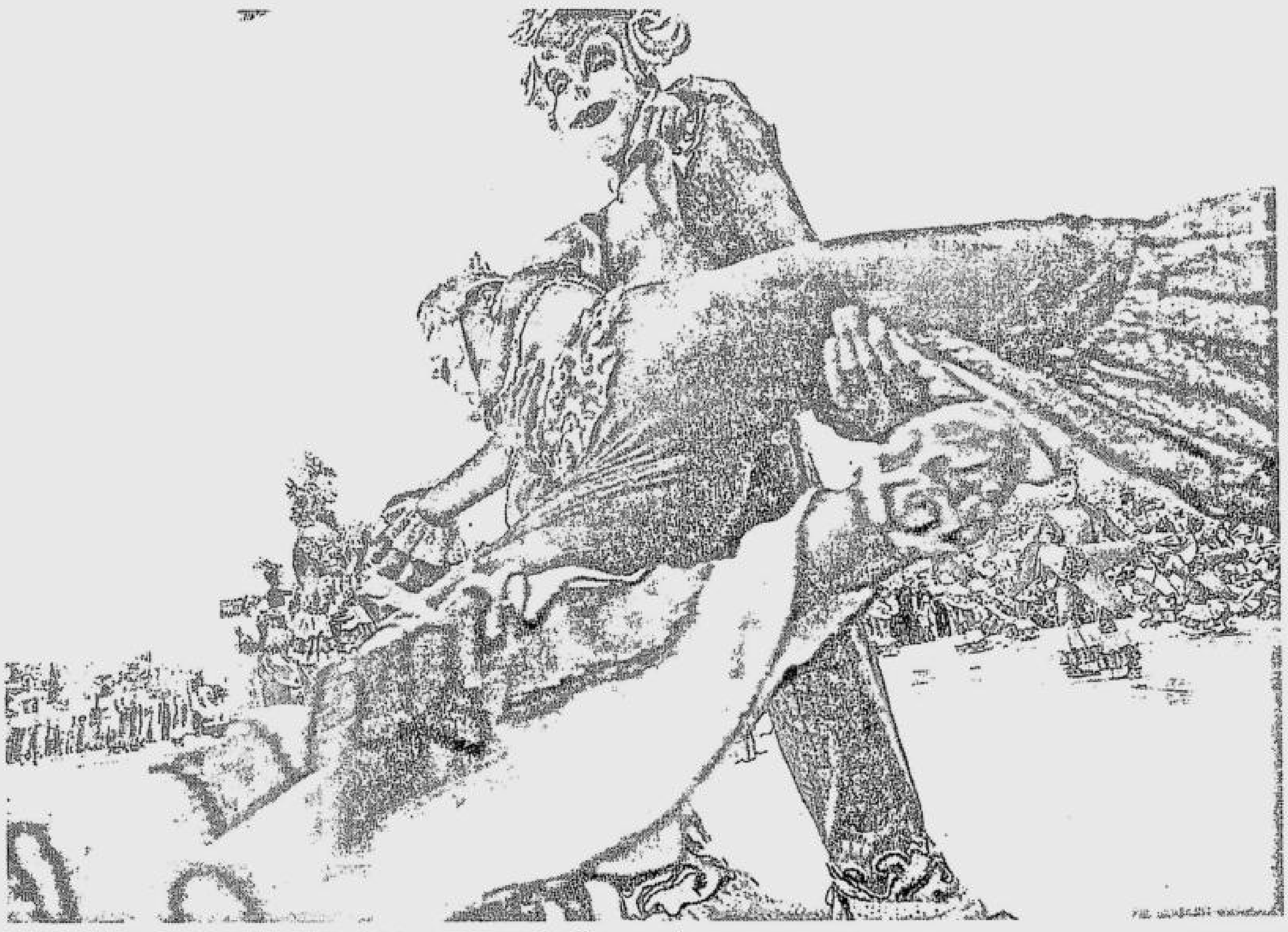
Early this week, President Macapagal Arroyo invited mayors of about 10 key areas in the country to Malacañang to discuss precautionary measures against a possible spill-over of bombings in Metro Manila and Zamboanga City. Among the concerns discussed was security at festivals.

The President was pleased that nothing untoward happened during the MassKara Festival, according to Mayor Valdez.

Weeks leading to the festival, downtown Bacolod was filed with colorful buntings, streamers and giant masks reminding one and all that the MassKara Festival was on.

At the reclamation area near the Bacolod public plaza, booths had been set up for the sale of all kinds of goods—from bracelets, pottery to clothes and plants. Ferries wheels at the carnival lured the young and the old.

A new innovation at the festival was a MassKara Village where giant masks from the 38 barangays in the city were on exhibit at the ABS-CBN Compound on Lacson-26th Streets.


DANCERS swing away as Bacolod City celebrates the parade of happy masks.

GUIJO DUENAS

Agnes Lira Jundos, ABS-CBN Bacolod manager, said ABS-CBN initiated the mask making contests as its share in ensuring color and gaiety in the annual celebration of the MassKara Festival.

Protests and street dances

A thinner crowd witnessed this year's MassKara street dance activities compared to last year. But it did not stop the 15 contingents from giving everything they've got as they danced their war through the city's streets on Sunday afternoon.

Not even the protest march staged by militant organizations earlier in the day could dampen the spirit of Negrenses out to show off their happy faces.

On Sunday morning, members of the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino, Sanlakas, Kongreso ng Pagkakaisa ng Maralitang Lungsod, Kalipunan ng mga Anak ng Manggawang Pilipino and Sanlakas Youth staged their own version of MassKara "street march."

But instead of wearing happy masks, the protestors wore "sad" masks, saying it was "sheer hypocrisy that the true face of (Negros Occidental) is covered by the masks of merry-making."

The protest march was the militant groups' way of bringing to public attention the plight of sugar workers, the urban poor and the rest of the marginalized "who for a century now still agonize amid the worsening crisis of the sugar industry."

Their masks depicted the "sad and frowning faces of the Negrenses who suffer from hunger and poverty in the midst of the merry making in the guise of prosperity and enjoyment," Sanlakas spokesperson Ariel Guides said.

By afternoon however, traces of sad masks were gone as dancers with smiling masks took over the streets.

It was a grand slam for Barangay Pahanocoy, which took the first prize for three consecutive years in the street dance competition.

Pahancoy received P125,000 in cash. It also won the best in costume and the best in mask and headdress awards with prizes of P10,000 for each category.

Barangay Taculing bagged second place and received P100,000 while Barangay 14 got third place and won P75,000. This is a good year for Taculing as it was third place last year and also in 2000.

Glenn Recaido of Barangay 14 was judged best choreographer and was awarded P10,000 in cash.

Festival queen

Eighteen-year-old Meg Urmeneta bested seven other candidates and bagged the crown in this year's search for MassKara Queen held on Oct. 18 at the University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos (UNO-R) gymnasium.

Her reply to the question of Mayor Luzviminda Valdez and former President Fidel Ramos "What do you think success means to you?" was believed to have clinched the title and P50,000 in cash for her.

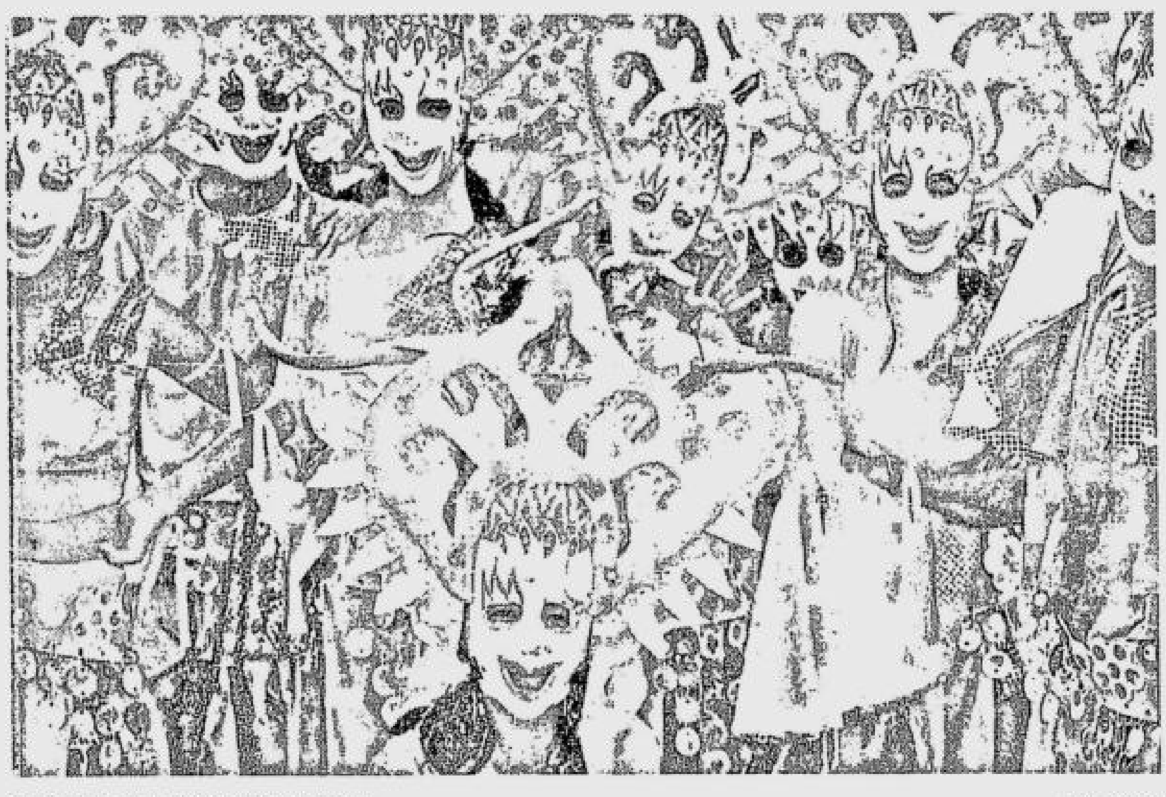
The five-foot-seven Commerce UNO-R student said success means achieving everything you wanted and being happy and content in life.

Urmeneta also bagged the best in long gown award with her black and gold velvet suit.

Miss Tourism and first runner-up was Natalie Briones. She received P30,000 in cash.

Second runner-up and Miss MassKara Arts and Culture was the crowd favorite, Nadine Reese Magalona, who also bagged most of the minor awards. She received P20,000 in cash.

Urmeneta, Briones and Magalona were the finalists during the swim wear competition held on Oct. 5 at the Bacolod City Convention Plaza Hotel. Their gowns were all designed by a local designer, John-john Ditching.


MORE masks project happy faces.

GUIJO DUENAS

STREET performers bring out the fun.

GUIJO DUENAS

Barcode us, please! (Or leave us alone)

LUCID INTERVAL
Rowena V. Guanzon

THE SUPREME Court has spoken, but the government is still at it.

With bombings and threats of bombings, National Security Adviser Rolio Golez probably thinks that now that we are all scared we will be willing to give up our freedom. Government wants to revive the national identification system. No I.D., no government transaction.

It is a good thing that former Sen. Blas Ople has done all of us a great service by filing the case of Ople versus Ruben Torres, et al (G.R. 127685, July 23, 1998). In 1996, former President Fidel Ramos issued Administrative Order No. 380, entitled "Adoption of a National Computerized Identification Reference System." Ople contested this in the Supreme Court, arguing that the national I.D. system is unconstitutional as it invades the citizens' right to privacy.

Striking down the national I.D. system, the Supreme Court held that the essence of privacy is the "right to be let alone." It cited the case of Griswold v. Connecticut, wherein the US Supreme Court invalidated a Connecticut statute, which made the use of contraceptives a criminal offense on the ground that it amounted to an invasion of the right of privacy of married persons.

Biometrics technology

People might be misled in thinking that this is just another I.D. card. But no, the government wants to use a Population Reference Number (PRN) as a common reference number to establish a link between concerned agencies through the use of "Biometrics Technology."

As the Supreme Court describes it, the term "biometrics" has now evolved into a broad category of technologies which provide precise confirmation of an individual's identity through the use of the individual's own physiological and behavioral characteristics.

A physiological characteristic is a relatively stable physical characteristic such as a fingerprint, retinal scan, hand geometry or facial features. A behavioral characteristic is influenced by the individual's personality and includes voice print, signature and keystroke.

Most biometric identification systems use a card or personal identification number (PIN) for initial identification. The biometric measurement is used to verify that the individual holding the card or entering the PIN is the legitimate owner of the card or PIN.

Covert invitation to misuse

The Supreme Court, with Justices Kapunan and Mendoza dissenting, held that:

"A.O. No. 308 should also raise our antennas for a further look will show that it does not state whether encoding of data is limited to biological information alone for identification purposes . . . the PRN will not be used solely for identification but for the generation of other data with remote relation to the avowed purposes of A.O. No. 308.

"Clearly, the indefiniteness of A.O. No. 308 can give the government the roving authority to store and retrieve information for a purpose other than the identification of the individual through his PRN . . .

"Pursuant to said administrative order, an individual must present his PRN every time he deals with a government agency to avail of basic services and security. His transactions with the government agency will necessarily be recorded . . . The individual's file may include his transactions for loan . . . income tax returns, . . . etc. The more frequent the use of the PRN, the better the chance of building a huge and formidable information base through the electronic linkage of the files."

This vast reservoir of personal information is, to the Supreme Court, a covert invitation to misuse, "a temptation that may be too great for some of our authorities to resist."

We will have no control over what the government will encode in our I.D.s.

The Supreme Court describes the dangers for us:

"The lack of proper safeguards in this regard of A.O. No. 308 may interfere with the individual's liberty of abode and travel by enabling authorities to track down his movement; it may also enable unscrupulous persons to access confidential information and circumvent the right against self-incrimination; it may pave the way for 'fishing expeditions' by government authorities and evade the right against unreasonable searches and seizures."

Scarier than bomb threats

This national I.D. reference system should scare us more than the bomb threats.

Can you imagine if some genius in the intelligence group of the government will encode labels such as "H" for homosexual, "A" for addict, "C" for communist, "L" for lawyer or "X" for all of the above.

If the government wants to keep track of all of us to separate the terrorists from the pacifists or the thieves from politicians, an identification card is not tamper proof. Your I.D. can get snatched and some kidnapper might use it to rent a car.

I have been suggesting since 1996 that instead of an I.D. card the government should barcode us. This way we can't exchange identities, and it is water-proof, tamper proof and permanent till the grave. Many citizens agree. Here are where they want their barcodes imprinted:

Bro. Ceci (De La Salle Brother)—dila (tongue)

Bing Baguioro—middle finger

Sheila Coronel—"tabi ng bakuna ko sa hita"

Eliza Zamora—talampakan ng paa

Inday Espina, Cara Cosalan, Miles Iturralde and Sally Ujano—puwet

Manding Miclat—wrist, like the Jews

Raul Reyes—batok (nape)

Joann Maglipon—"my palm *para* I can accidentally smash it up their faces."

Beth Angsioco—back of left shoulder

Vangie Carrasco—sa ear para dangling

Bunny Uranza —"my left egg"

Police officer—"*pwede*, you know where?"

To quote my former professor Justice Flerida Ruth Romero, this national I.D. system is so terrifying that it must, "without delay be slain upon sight before our society turns totalitarian with each of us, a mindless robot."

Hijacked by terror, Apec faces dilemma

From page A1

the dominant theme in Apec discussions. Violence plagues Apec nations on both sides of the Pacific: Indonesia is grappling with a nightclub bombing in Bali that killed about 190 people, the Philippines is searching for Muslim militants responsible for at least three recent explosions and US authorities arrested two men Thursday in a series of sniper attacks that have terrorized its people.

Putin cancels visit

Russian President Vladimir Putin canceled his visit—and his meeting with US President George W. Bush—after Chechen separatists took hundreds of hostages less than 5 km from the Kremlin. Bush had hoped to use the meeting to win Putin's support for new threats of force against Iraq.

"We condemn and we regret the recent terrorist attacks in Bali, Indonesia, the Philippines and Russia," said Mexican Economic Minister Luis Ernesto Derbez, on behalf of his colleagues after their formal meeting.

The attacks were a "tragic reminder of the importance of maintaining a united, committed and sustained effort to ensure that terrorism does not prevent Apec from achieving its goals," Derbez said.

Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, after thanking his colleagues for their support during the hostage crisis, defended the focus on terror and said no country could look away.

"The problem of terrorism is a problem of global nature," he said. "The issue of fighting terrorism is the first priority."

Some executives complained that terrorism was drawing too much attention from the economic goals the leaders came to discuss. "It's a shame for those of us who want to push an agenda of free trade and more commerce," Cunningham said.

The ministers and many of the CEOs made clear that in a world where terrorism strikes commerce as hard as it does flesh and blood, the two topics cannot be separated.

"If we can't move goods and people, we can't trade in a global economy," said Thomas Donohue, president of the US Chamber of Commerce. "The economic agenda cannot prosper unless the issue of terrorism and potential terrorist acts are dealt with."

In their declaration, the ministers recommended the adoption of tough new security measures for ships, planes and trucks laid out by US Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta on Wednesday, saying they would balance the sometimes conflicting needs to keep the world safe and its businesses running. US officials fear terror groups could try to smuggle in explosives or the components for weapons of mass destruction in cargo containers—or even use them to float bombs into the heart of US ports.

Biometric technology

The sweeping plan also calls for the use of biometric technology, such as fingerprints on all entry and exit travel documents.

Heads of state began arriving for the culmination of the conference, a weekend summit where war in Iraq, nuclear weapons in North Korea and guerrillas in Russia will be as frequent topics of conversation as free trade and economic recovery. The first to arrive was South Korean President Kim Dae-jung, who descended the stairs of a Boeing 747 with a wave and a smile.

Winds picked up and a light rain fell as category-5 Hurricane Kenna appeared to veer away from Cabo San Lucas and headed toward the Mexican mainland. Mexican Economic Minister Luis Ernesto Derbez said organizers had prepared evacuation plans—and an alternate conference site—but he doubted they would be needed.

But despite US preparations for a possible war with Iraq, US Secretary of State Colin Powell said leaders should focus on raising living standards to reduce violence—and the need for military action.

"True success, true wealth, does not come out of the barrel of a gun," he told the business group.

Powell said Apec members would soon launch "a package of bold joint actions to make the flow of trade, finance and communication more secure." He said richer countries would help poorer ones with the resources they need to implement the measures.

"To drive growth and generate prosperity," Powell said, Apec nations need to tighten security, "particularly our security from global terrorism."

Powell said it was important that forums like Apec not be devoted to "the particular crisis of the day," but that it was inevitable that terrorism would come under discussion.

The Apec members are Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, the United States and Vietnam. *Reports from AP and AFP*

Let's shop and party, cops urge

From page A1

the public to avoid crowded areas in the wake of the Oct. 18 bus explosion in Quezon City.

"This is the greatest challenge: Go on with your normal lives," he said. "The Philippine National Police will be around to assure your safety. But let's also be vigilant."

He added: "This is the battle of the minds. We should not be cowed by (terrorists)."

At the same time, however, he advised the people to take extra precautions and bear with the inspection of their bags and baggage in malls or while riding buses or the rail transit systems.

He likewise urged the media to report bomb threats factually, saying that alarming but false reports had done nothing but scare off tourists and investors.

De Leon recalled hearing days ago a radio report of a bomb explosion that ripped through a convenience store in Blumentritt, Manila, which turned out to be false.

He pointed out that false reports on bombings had kept both foreigners and locals from joining the "street parties" in Malate, Manila.

In keeping with the business-as-usual stance, some 200 business leaders yesterday kicked off a two-day conference on Boracay.

The business leaders, mostly from small and medium enterprises (SMEs), are attending the Visayas Area Business Conference at the Casa Pilar Resort.

Ramon Buenaflor, governor for Western Visayas of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), said the conference would be a venue for discussions on the state of SMEs and solutions to problems plaguing business in the regions.

The conference is sponsored by the PCCI, the Aklan Ati-Atihan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc., the provincial government of Aklan and the Department of Trade and Industry.

Security has been tightened on the world-famous resort island, which had been identified as a potential bombing target.

Supt. Edgardo Mendoza, Aklan provincial police director, said earlier that tighter security measures were being implemented on Boracay and at the port jetty in Barangay Caticlan in Malay town, a 15-minute boat ride from the island resort. *With a report from Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau*

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Gloria woos absentee votes ...

From page A1

called "a moral partnership" and were determined to fight terrorism at a time when the al-Qaida network of Osama bin Laden had shifted its focus to Southeast Asia.

She said she had offered security and humanitarian assistance to the United States, which is working to get a United Nations Security Council resolution giving it the authority to launch a war against Iraq.

But she would not be drawn into a categorical answer on whether she would support a unilateral US invasion of Iraq.

"The Philippine position is: we support the United Nations process and we also support the case being made by the US before the Security Council," she said.

The President said the Philippines was supporting the US move to include the Jemaah Islamiah group in the US Department of State list of terrorist organization. *(See related story on A1.)*

She said her meeting with Inouye dealt with the help that the Philippines was seeking from him to support the country's bid for tuna to be included in the US generalized system of preferences so Philippine tuna can enter the US market.

The country's tuna industry was dealt a blow by the US move to allow the liberalized entry of tuna from the Andean countries of South America.

Ms Macapagal said the tuna issue had a security dimension because the industry's center was in a part of Mindanao that was threatened by Abu Sayyaf bandits.

Meeting about a thousand Filipino-Americans represented by groups of World War II veterans, *sacadas* and students at the Filipino Center of Hawaii (FilCom), the President tailored her remarks to appeal to what she called "the past, the present and the future" of the Filipino community in Hawaii.

To wild applause from about a dozen representatives of the Honolulu-based Filipino Law Students Association, she said she was bringing a *"baon"* for them—the absentee voting bill that had just been passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate.

"Let's pray that the Senate and the House are able to reconcile the differences in the two bills so that the youth, the future of the Filipino community in the United States, will be able to vote in Philippine elections," she said.

Depending on the results of a bicameral conference, the overseas vote will empower an estimated four to 7.5 million Filipinos abroad.

Veterans

To the World War II veterans who have long been clamoring for equal benefits as American veterans, she said US President George W. Bush had already certified a bill granting $65 million in benefits to Filipino veterans. The bill had already passed the US House and was being shepherded through the Senate with the help of Inouye.

Ms Macapagal said Bush had also granted $500,000 a year to Filipino-American veterans who are already in the Philippines. She said the first release would come at the end of the month.

"This is the greatest moment for the veterans, to have an audience with her," said Art Caleda, executive vice president of the group World War II Fil-Am Veterans.

"The veterans feel so great and they are so alive after 56 years of waiting in frustration for our benefits, and she was the one who took upon herself to bring to the attention of President Bush the problems and concerns of the veterans," Caleda said. "That's why her visit to Hawaii is the greatest moment for the veterans."

Ms Macapagal paid tribute to the *sacadas*, the first of the Filipinos to come to Hawaii to work in the sugar and pineapple plantations during the first half of the 20th century.

Highest elective Fil-Am

Cayetano, the highest elective US official of Filipino descent, last June signed into law a bill "establishing a commission to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the arrival of Filipinos in Hawaii."

The commission is known as the Filipino Centennial Celebration Commission under the governor's office.

The President visited the $14.2-million FilCom Center (the Filipino community center of Hawaii) which she had been invited to inaugurate last June. It is a three-story structure showcasing Filipino arts and culture that will serve as the gathering place for Filipinos and other ethnic groups.

The first Filipinos to arrive in Hawaii were 15 laborers in 1906 who had been recruited to work in Hawaii's then thriving agricultural economy centered on vast sugar and pineapple plantations.

Ilocanos

The plantations demanded a constant supply of labor. The Hawaii Sugar Planters Association established labor recruitment centers in the Philippines, mostly in Vigan, Ilocos Sur and in Cebu in the Visayas.

The initial 15 were followed in 1907 by 150. From 1911 to 1920, an estimated 3,000 Filipino workers arrived every year.

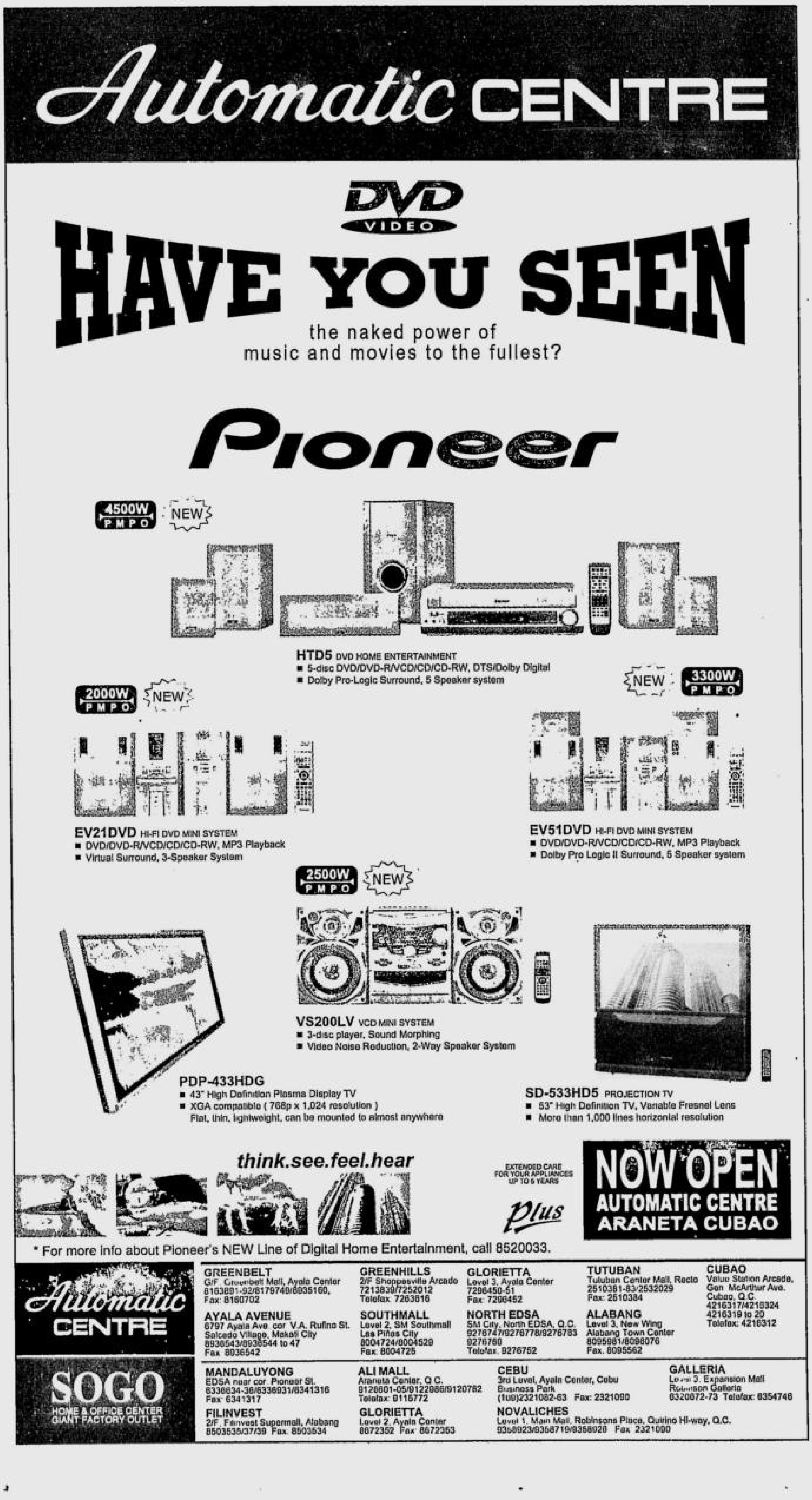
By 1919, Filipinos represented 22.9 percent of the total plantation labor force, second only to Japanese workers, who at that time represented 54.7 percent. By the 1930s, Filipinos had replaced the Japanese as the largest ethnic group working in the plantations.

Filipinos, or rather Hawaiians of Filipino ancestry, currently make up the third largest ethnic group in Hawaii.

According to the US 2000 census, there were 275,728 people in Hawaii who identified themselves as Filipino, either alone or in combination with other ethnic groups. That would make the Filipinos here the second largest Asian population of the state of Hawaii after the Japanese.

Of the total Filipino population here, 170,635 people identified themselves as Filipino alone, accounting for 14.1 percent of the state's 1.2 million people.

The Ilocanos, comprising the overwhelming majority of Filipino migrants working in the early plantations, continue to dominate the immigrants from the Philippines. Of the 2,733 Filipino registered immigrants bound for Hawaii in 2001, 50.59 percent were from the Ilocos region, according to the Commission on Filipinos Overseas. *With a report from AP*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MILF vows to hunt down top suspect in bus blast

From page A1

deep hiding."

Yunos, who has been linked to the militant Jemaah Islamiah group, is believed hiding in areas outside of the five main Muslim communities in Metro Manila to avoid arrest.

"We heard he's living in non-Muslim areas," a reliable source told the INQUIRER. "He's very difficult to find."

Police and military officials had tagged Yunos and his cohorts, including two Indonesian nationals, as the suspects in the bus explosion along Edsa that killed two people and wounded 20 others.

An official had said that police were having difficulty arresting Yunos because he was being protected by MILF chair Hashim Salamat, an allegation that MILF officials flatly denied.

But Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., chief of the Philippine National Police, said it was too early to link anyone, including Yunos, to the bus explosion.

"To connect them to the Balintawak bombing is not just speculative but more of forecasting," Ebdane told reporters yesterday. "We have to acquire specific evidence or arrest somebody so that we can work on the supposed connections."

Gonzales, however, described as "essentially correct" police intelligence reports that Yunos had a hand in the rash of bombings in Zamboanga City, North Cotabato and Metro Manila.

"Yunos is operating with his own group. He is a pal of Al-Ghozi," Gonzales said, referring to Indonesian Fathur Al-Ghozi who had admitted involvement in the Metro Manila bombings on Dec. 30, 2000. The spate of bombings on that day killed more than 20 persons and wounded more than 100.

Al-Ghozi, who was arrested January in Quiapo, Manila, is currently serving a 12-year sentence for illegal possession of explosives.

"I raised the issue regarding Yunos and I told Murad that we want to get not only him but also his entire group," Gonzales said. "Murad said they will help."

No coddling

Nash Pangadapun, secretary general of the Muslim alliance Maradeka, said residents of Muslim communities in Metro Manila were not coddling anyone suspected of involvement in the deadly bombings.

He said Muslim leaders in Quiapo, Culiat in Quezon City and Taguig, among others, had even assigned residents to monitor the movements and, if necessary, ban the entry of "suspicious-looking" people.

"We will never coddle (bombing suspects); we detest them. We're simple people trying to make a living here. We don't want any trouble," Pangadapun said in a phone interview.

He added: "We always want to have a peaceful, harmonious coexistence with our Christian brothers."

According to Pangadapun, Maradeka, which advocates the protection of the civil liberties of Muslims, is composed of 23 groups and more than 20,000 members all over the country. He said it would never tolerate people espousing political struggle through violent means.

"There's so much democratic space here, there's freedom of expression," he said. "We can always champion the cause or realize the aspirations of the Bangsamoro people through peaceful means."

Pangadapun wondered why police had not initiated a dialogue with Muslim leaders to discuss security concerns in view of the bomb scare gripping the metropolis. "We'll always cooperate with the PNP when it comes to peace and order," he said.

Gonzales said Murad did not say when Yunos was dropped from the MILF and why.

He said he and Murad met in Kuala Lumpur to discuss the "need to fast-track the resumption of formal peace talks between the government and the MILF."

"We have agreed on the dates and the procedure," Gonzales said. "I still have to report to the President and therefore I cannot disclose details yet."

It was Gonzales who negotiated two interim agreements with the MILF last May.

The first agreement involves the rehabilitation of Muslim communities ravaged by the Estrada administration's all-out-war policy, and the second, MILF assistance in the government's drive against crime, particularly kidnapping, in Mindanao.

Bounty hunting

The lawyer of an earlier suspect in the Oct. 10 bombing in Kidapawan City has offered to help the government look for the perpetrators.

Peter Nugas, legal counsel for Datu Musin Mamintal, said their offer was intended not only to clear his client's name but also to seek justice for the civilians killed or wounded in the explosion at a Kidapawan bus terminal.

Nugas said they were most concerned with the government's offer of P1 million for information leading to the arrest of the bombers. "Every bounty hunter in town might come after Datu Musin," he said.

Mamintal was supposedly released from jail because two witnesses who had earlier implicated him retracted their statements.

But Nugas said Mamintal was never included in the list of suspects and there was no standing warrant for his arrest. Nugas said Mamintal went to the 602nd Infantry Brigade in Carmen, Cotabato, on his own volition to "inquire" about being implicated in the bombing.

The lawyer also said that contrary to newspaper accounts, Mamintal was not "released" but went home to his family.

"How did it happen?" Nugas said. "Who was responsible for (the supposed witnesses') retraction? Maybe the truth is there were never any witnesses and even one iota of evidence against him."

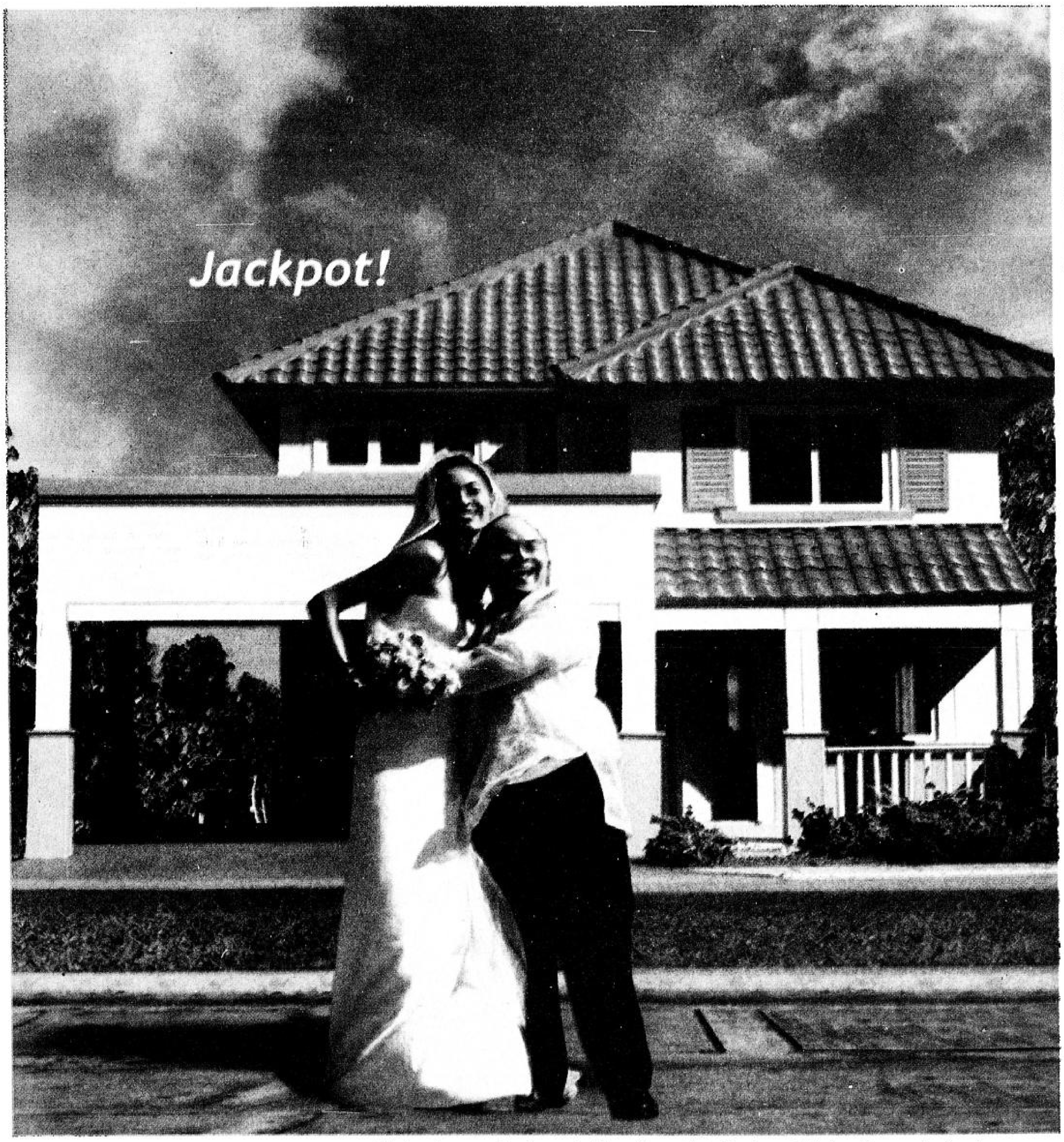
Nugas said the issue started when Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol supposedly blurted out Mamintal's name when asked to identify the suspects.

In a dialogue with Piñol, Mamintal offered to help authorities "solve the problem."

"We are involved, we are concerned, we will try to seek justice," Nugas said.

Mamintal was among Piñol's active supporters when he ran for governor of Cotabato.

"Governor Piñol was apologetic, but we told him that he was just doing his job and we will do ours. We are not blaming anybody," Nugas said. *With reports from Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



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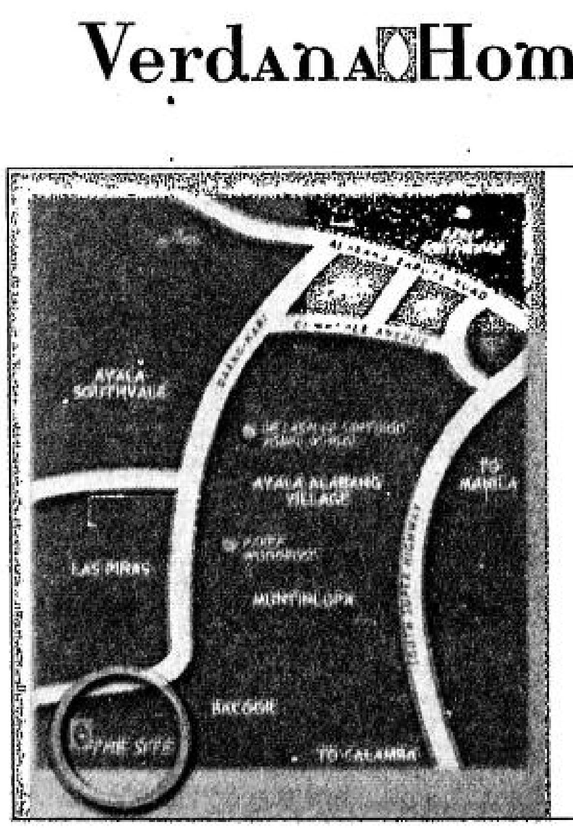

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BOXING: Duel In Davao - Pacquiao vs Rakkiatgym, 5 p.m., NBN 4
GOLF: LPGA Williams Championship, 8 a.m. (r), ESPN
LPGA Safeway Classic, 3 p.m., ESPN
Buy.Com Championship 2002, 4 p.m. and 8 p.m., Star Sports
POOL: World Pool League 2001, 9 p.m. (r), ESPN

DUEL IN DAVAO

Pacquiao risks title today; ₱50,000 tickets sell well

By June Navarro

DAVAO CITY—Manny Pacquiao has a bigger task ahead than retaining his IBF superbantamweight crown: help uplift the war-tainted image of Mindanao.

Rocked recently by a spate of bombings in Zamboanga City, the region, particularly Davao, will be the center of attraction today when Pacquiao stakes his title against Fahprakorb Rakkiatgym of Thailand at the Rizal Memorial Colleges gym here.

"This title fight is a perfect vehicle to promote Mindanao in the face of terrorist attacks done in Zamboanga City. Instead of being afraid, we must band together and fight to stop these bombings," said North Cotabato Gov. Manny Piñol, executive director of the organizing body.

Hordes of security men from the Philippine Air Force, SWAT, Davao City bomb squad, the local police and 10 bomb-sniffing dogs will be deployed at the RMC gym to secure the area.

Featuring nine other supporting bouts prior to the main event, the Pacquiao-Rakkiatgym title clash will be aired live by NBN-4 beginning at 6 p.m.

The fight dubbed as "Duel in Davao," can also be seen in the United States, Thailand, Laos and Cambodia.

Just as they have promised, organizers will install at least two wide-screen televisions at parks within the city to cater to boxing fans yearning to witness Pacquiao in action.

The 25-year-old Pacquiao, on his third title defense, tipped the scales at exactly 122 pounds. He was a pound heavier in the morning, forcing him to indulge in a workout to shed excess poundage.

"*Hindi ko masabi kung tatagal ang laban basta gagawin ko lahat para sa bansa at para ma-depensahan ko ang korona ko.* (I really can't tell if the fight will go the distance. I'll just do everything I can for the country and defend my crown),'" said the southpaw from General Santos City.

FACE OFF: Pacquiao (left) and challenger Rakkiatgym.
VAL HANDUMON

Rakkiatgym tipped the scales at 121 but not after a strenuous exercise in order to burn five pounds.

"I'm expecting a long and hard fight. This will really be a test for me," said the challenger through an interpreter.

Rakkiatgym, a former WBF bantamweight champion, owns a ring record of two losses and 36 wins, 25 of them by way of knockout. His record unblemished since 1993, Rakkiatgym has beaten his last 34 opponents.

Pacquiao, who boasts a fight record of 35 wins, two losses and one draw spiked by 26 knockouts, captured the title at the expense of South African Lehlo Ledwaba in June 2001 and has successfully defended the crown against Agapito Sanchez and Jorge Eliecer Julio.

Win or lose, Pacquiao will fatten his bank account by $160,000 (roughly P8 million) while Rakkiatgym is assured of a $20,000 purse (P1 million).

Shafeeq Fushada of the United States, Thailand's Saemphan Saengakaj and Narciso Martinez are the judges while Bruce McTavish of New Zealand will be the third man on the ring.

As a gesture of goodwill and unity through sports, Piñol and Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte have allocated at least 60 tickets worth P50,000 each for the MNLF, MILF and the NPA.

"I never consider them as terrorists simply because I don't believe that they are the ones who are doing it," said Duterte.

As of yesterday, the fight has fetched a total of at least P5 million in sales with the P50,000 tickets selling like hotcakes, Piñol said.

Man in a hurry

SPECTATOR
Al S. Mendoza

I CAN'T think of Manny Pacquiao losing today. He's too good a fighter that I think he's going to a black tie party this evening and not to a boxing bout. Thus he can treat his fight with Thai Fahprakorb Rakkiatgym tonight like 20 pushups before taking a shower for the dinner dance.

Davao City is having a party tonight for its adopted son. Bring out the durian, please. I'm not having dinner.

I do not know the Thai that much, except that he has 25 knockouts from his 36 wins. He has two losses like Pacquiao (35-2-1, 26 KOs).

The Thai's statistics do not impress me, though. Sonny Liston had the most brilliant record—but he went down against the then untested Cassius Clay (Muhammad Ali) in 1964.

What impresses me is a boxer's fighting style. Pacquiao's style, for example: Courageous, brute power.

Rakkiatgym's power is unknown. His fighting style is wrapped in Thai pandan leaves. His handlers have kept tapes of his real fights from Pacquiao's view.

You think that tactic would translate to victory for the Thai? I doubt it. Against Pacquiao, there are no secrets. The only secret that is of interest to this beast is the round when he's going to send his foe to dreamland.

Pacquiao, when he is in shape, is unbeatable in the 122-lb division—the way he was some years back when he was still in the flyweight division. Originally from General Santos City who now calls Davao City home, Pacquiao packs the power of a dynamite that can level Mt. Apo.

The 25-year-old Pacquiao isn't really your perfect epitome of a prizefighter. He is a fighter, but not a boxer. He slaughters.

He is like your typical schoolboy who is always in a hurry. If he misses his school bus, he'll give it a chase. If the referee would only allow him to fight with bare knuckles, he'd be happy to do so—just to get it done. No frills.

Pacquiao's guided by the rule time is gold. He wants things done in a flash. Like a soldier on a mission, he skips dessert during meals. In his second title defense of his IBF crown last June, he spent no more than 10 minutes in the ring, knocking out Mexican Jorge Eliecer Julio in the second round.

He's not your idea of a good drinker—if he ever drank at all. A vintage wine will not interest him; he'll not sip it, he'll drink it straight from the bottle. He treats opponents like a guy would to war freaks in a bar: he'd bounce them off like pizzas.

"My conditioning hasn't changed," Pacquiao told our June Navarro in Filipino. "Rakkiatgym is strong but I can beat him."

There are two ways for Rakkiatgym to beat Pacquiao.

One, he should hit Pacquiao real hard; he needs to fire a shot with the power of a wayward train as Pacquiao is made of rock.

Two, if unsuccessful with that, he must beg on bended knees for Pacquiao to quit right in the first round.

I can't even imagine the Thai winning on points. That'd be like saying Pacquiao is no longer known as the man in a hurry. Or, that'd be like saying Pacquiao is fighting on hostile territory—like Pattaya, maybe?

Anyway, who said the fight is going to go the distance? He knows not Pacquiao from head to foot.

That'd be like saying Pacquiao has dropped rap music for waltz.

Are we having a ballroom party here or isn't it really a brawl we're about to see?

The durian also goes well taken with brandy, if not cognac.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO
PUREFOODS' Andy Seigle (top)and FedEx's Jerry Codinera battle for the loose ball.

Hotdogs seize top spot

GAME TODAY
(Balanga People's Center, Balanga, Bataan)
5 p.m.–San Miguel Beer vs Barangay Ginebra

By Dennis U. Eroa

PUREFOODS bucked Vergel Meneses' aerial show as it rallied past FedEx, 85-82, to seize the solo lead last night in the Selecta PBA All-Filipino Cup at the Astrodome.

With the fans screaming in delight, Meneses mocked all guards thrown at him as he powered his way to 34 points, 16 in the third period, but his heroics weren't enough to prevent Purefoods from posting its second straight win.

"We just could not stop Vergel," said Purefoods mentor Eric Altamirano, back in active duty for the Hotdogs after his stint with the Philippine team. He alternated Rey Evangelista, Roger Yap and Noy Castillo on Meneses, who relived his glory years as the league's "Aerial Voyager."

But while the Hotdogs failed to solve the Meneses riddle, they were successful in stifling the Express' normally well-oiled offense anchored on Ren Ren Ritualo, Yancy de Ocampo, Winnie Arboleda and Dindo Pumaren with an effective zone defense.

As the Hotdogs ball carriers had a hard time setting up due to the press, the Express went on a scoring binge in the third period. The 6-foot-3 Meneses scored repeatedly as FedEx took the upper hand, 58-51, before Purefoods calmed down and made its move in the fourth quarter.

In the second game, Paolo Mendoza shone as Sta. Lucia Realty edged Talk N' Text, 70-67, for its first win. Mendoza finished with 19 points, icing the Realtors' victory with a split in the dying seconds.

The loss marred the debut of new coach Paul Woolpert, who secured his working papers from the Department of Labor and Employment despite firm opposition from the Basketball Coaches Association of the Philippines headed by lawyer Chito Narvasa.

Scores:

PUREFOODS 85—Seigle 19, Raymundo 12, Cantonjos 9, Castillo 8, Patrimonio 8, Evangelista 7, Magsanoc 7, Balingit 7, Yap 5, Fernandez 3.

FEDEX 82—Meneses 34, De Ocampo 15, Arboleda 10, Codinera 8, Ritualo 8, Bernardo 5, Pumaren 2, Realubit 0, Capobres 0.

Quarters: 21-24, 43-36, 57-63, 85-82.

UE-Ateneo series gets under way

GAME TODAY *(Araneta Coliseum)*
3 p.m.--Ateneo vs UE (best-of-three)

REVENGE is on the mind of title-hungry University of the East as it battles powerhouse Ateneo today at the start of the Battle of Champions best-of-three title series at the Araneta Coliseum.

Game One is set at 3 p.m., with the Blue Eagles, newly-crowned UAAP titlists, slightly favored against the Warriors.

Dennis Eroa

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Vietnam scrapping major events in SEAG

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE VIETNAM Southeast Asian Games organizers plan to scrap several major sports from its calendar next year including those where the Philippines carries big chance of winning like billiards, boxing and bowling.

This was revealed yesterday by Philippine Olympic Committee secretary general Romy Ribaño, who added that the country will fight for the retention of those sports in the 2003 SEAG.

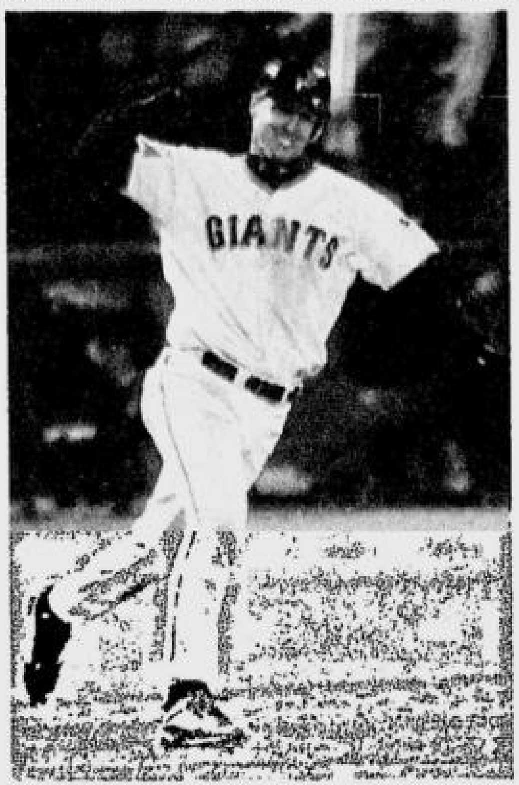
The organizers said they either don't have an association governing such sports or they lack facilities to stage those events.

But Ribaño said the POC will lobby heavily for the inclusion of the three events because they are the main source of gold medals for the Philippines, considering that the country won a gold each in bowling and billiards and a silver in boxing during the recent Busan Asian Games.

"They obviously want to maximize their chances for the overall championship," said Ribaño of Vietnam, which already included two new events.

The Games will thus have fin swimming—which are practically swimming events where competitors are allowed to use monofins, flippers and snorkels—and shuttlecock, a variation of sepak takraw which uses shuttlecock instead of a ball.

Vietnam also plans to add new events in wushu, the country's favorite event, according to Ribaño.



SAN Francisco Giant Jeff Kent pumps his fist after hitting a two-run home run against the Anaheim Angels. AFP

Giants a win short of ruling W. Series

By Ben Walker
AP Baseball Writer

SAN FRANCISCO—Barry Bonds slugged San Fransciso to a lead not even Anaheim could overcome Thursday, as the Giants beat the Angels 16-4 in Game 5 to take a 3-2 lead in the World Series.

"I won't feel anything until it's over," Bonds said. "It's been difficult to sleep ever since I've been in these playoffs. Playing every at-bat, every pitch in my head."

Jeff Kent sealed the win with a pair of two-run homers, starting the party in full force at Pacific Bell Park and putting the Giants franchise on the brink of their first World Series title since Willie Mays & Co. won it for the New York Giants in 1954.

Rich Aurilia's three-run homer in the eighth inning gave the Giants the most runs by a team in a Series game since the New York Yankees thrashed Pittsburgh 16-3 in 1960.

The Giants tied a Series record with their 12th home run, and the total of 17 by the teams matched another mark. Aurilia's homer set off a fog horn blast and shots from water cannons on top of the right-field wall.

"Everybody did a great job, up and down our lineup," Giants manager Dusty Baker said.

Once again, it took only one big swing by Bonds—Mays' godson—to swing the momentum in this Series.

The Angels were caught in a lose-lose squeeze from the start. They pitched to Bonds in the first inning and the Giants got three runs. They intentionally walked him in the second and San Francisco scored three more.

"You look at the final score, and it was a whuppin'—no doubt about that," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said.

Now, pitcher Russ Ortiz will try to clinch San Francisco's first crown when he starts Game 6 Saturday night (Sunday morning in Manila) at Edison Field against Kevin Appier. Both made early exits in Game 2, an 11-10 win by the Angels.

A sellout crowd of 42,713, tense when the Angels climbed back from a 6-0 deficit and brought the tying run to the plate in the middle innings, erupted when Kent connected in the sixth and again in the seventh. Kent began the day in a 3-for-16 rut.

Bonds added another double and a single and Kenny Lofton sprinkled in a two-run triple as the Giants pulled away.

Meanwhile, the 3 1/2-year-old son of San Francisco manager Dusty Baker got so excited while retrieving a bat in Game 5 of the World Series that he nearly got run over at the plate.

When J.T. Snow scored for the Giants in the seventh inning of San Francisco's 16-4 win Thursday night, Darren Baker ran out of the dugout to pick up the bat of Kenny Lofton, who had hit a two-run triple. The problem was, David Bell was running full-speed behind Snow.

Snow made sure Darren was safe at home. He scooped him up by his oversized black jacket and asked, "You OK, buddy?"

GAME 5 LINESCORES:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
Anaheim	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	4	10	2
San Francisco	3	3	0	0	0	2	4	4	X	16	16	0

AF3 meet all set

THE SUBIC Bay Freeport Zone will become one big party place when the final leg of the 2002 Asian Formula Challenge, which is organized by the Asian Formula 3 Corp. (AF3) and Colby Ventures Inc., flags off today and tomorrow. Races start at 9 a.m.

Dubbed as "AF3 Weekend," the event is sponsored by the New Pagcor, Casino Filipino, Department of Tourism, Philippine Tourism Authority, SBMA, Red Horse Beer, FedEx, Gift Gate Swatch, Petron and Subic Telecom.

Expected to see action are the Manila-based drivers headed by Great Britain's Mark Goddard of Castrol Team Goddard, Jojo Silverio of Casino Filipino Team Tom's Zed, Denso JF3 Racing's Richard Joson, Pepon Marave of Shell Racing Team, JP Tuason of TRP Team Oxygen and the newly crowned Asian Formula Renault champion Enzo Pastor of Team TEC, who will be driving a Formula 3 car for the first time.

SPORTSWATCH

Bridges aims to back team

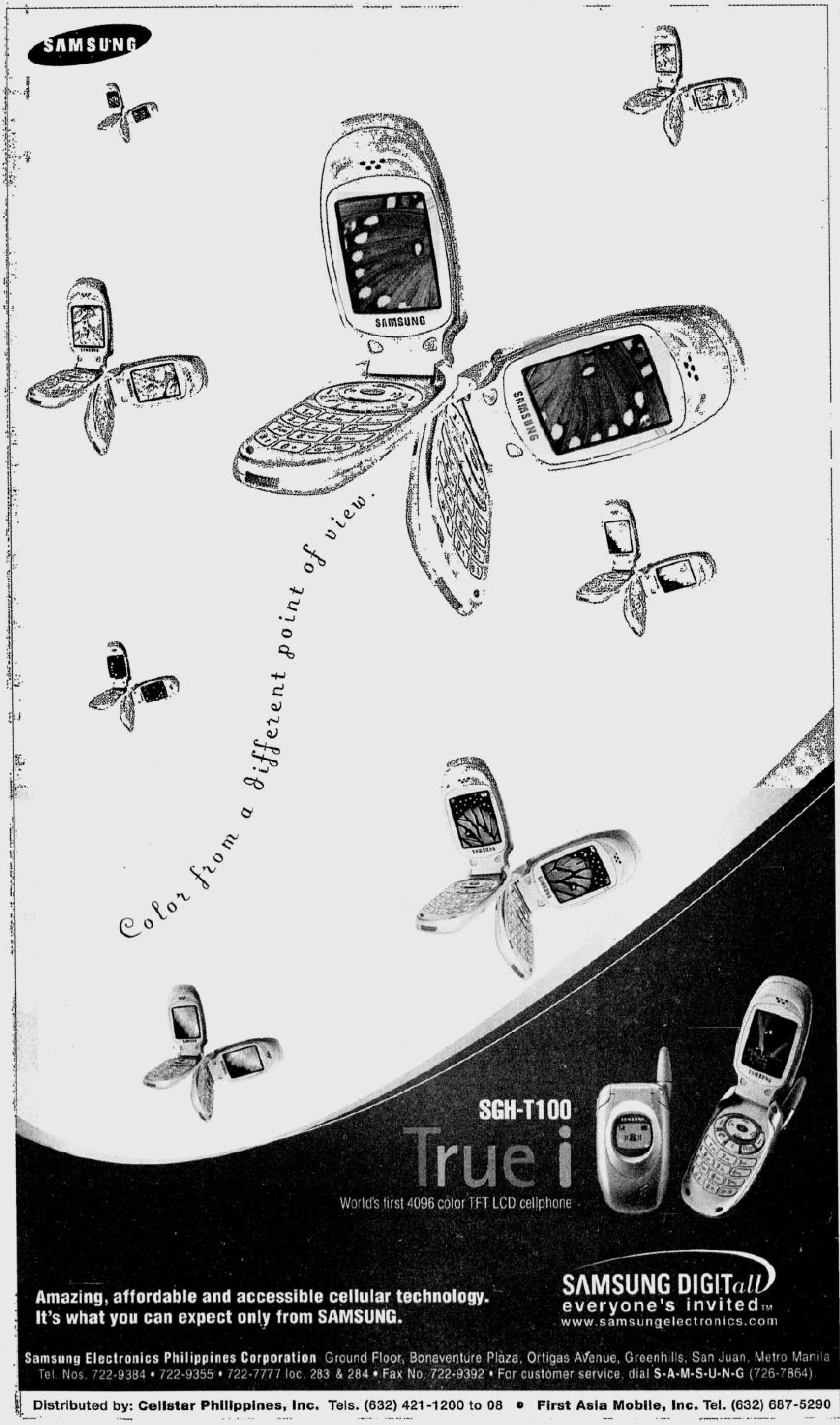
PHILIPPINE teams seeing action in future international competitions may soon find a major backer in the form of Bridges, a locally-made sports and lifestyle apparel. Sonny Nebres, president and managing director of Lynx Marketing and Consultancy Inc., said it is the firm's dream to outfit Philippine teams in competitions overseas just like Korea and Japan which always wear uniforms made by their local apparel companies. "That's the kind of of relationship Bridges hopes to establish with the Philippine team in the future," said Nebres. Bridges will be launched this month by Lynx, which, aside from Nebres, is also made up of Enrique Victoria (marketing and sales director), Julieta Ignacio (sourcing and technical director), Ma. Josella Ventanilla (retail marketing director) and Ramon Torres (director for administration).

Agassi, Safin lose early

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia—Karol Kucera of Slovakia stunned top-seeded Andre Agassi in straight sets 6-4, 6-4 Thursday in a day of upsets at the US$975,000 St. Petersburg Open. In early second-round action, wildcard Vladimir Voltchkov of Belarus upset two-time defending champion Marat Safin of Russia 6-4, 6-4, while Dominik Hrbaty of Slovakia eliminated Safin's Davis Cup teammate, fifth-seeded Yevgeny Kafelnikov, 7-6 (1), 7-5. Germany's Nikolas Kiefer downed Max Mirnyi of Belarus, seeded eighth, 6-3, 7-5. *AP*

Lightning kills booter

BOGOTA, Colombia—Veteran halfback Hermam Gaviria was killed by a lightning strike during a practice with his Deportivo Cali team, the Valle de Lili hospital announced. The practice had just begun when the storm hit Thursday afternoon. Fellow players tried to revive Gaviria on the field before taking him to the hospital. Four other players were injured and hospitalized. *AP*



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Cassius ends long drought

By Jong Arcano

LIFE on tour is a survival of the fittest and Cassius Casas knows what it takes to get over the bumps.

CASAS

Almost written off after a stretch of woeful missed cuts, Casas rediscovered his winning touch, breaking loose from a pesky Mars Pucay with a four-under-par 68 yesterday to capture the second leg of the First Gentleman's Professional Golf Circuit in Trece Martires, Cavite.

Casas was still tied for the lead after 14 holes with Pucay when he unloaded the killing salvo–a two-putt birdie on the 15th and another from 12 feet on the 17th–to win pulling away by four strokes at the Sherwood Hills course.

Casas' closing blitz proved too hot to match for Pucay who stumbled with a bogey on the 16th and a double-bogey on the 18th, clearing the way for Casas' unchallenged dash to the P100,000 champion's prize.

Casas posted a 281 total, seven under par over the Sherwood Hills Golf Club course in ending a victory drought of almost two years. In fact he had gone through the worst crisis of his pro career the past year and a half with a streak of seven missed cuts, six of them overseas.

The lowest point of Casas' career came this year when he shot a 92 in the US Open where he was accommodated as the first alternate. He had also missed the cut in the Philippine Open.

"Alam ko nandyan pa ang palo, hindi talaga nagtatama ang mga pamalo. Saka hindi naman palagi panalo, minsan nasa ibaba ka rin," said Casas who credited his rebound to a borrowed driver and a two-ball putter given him by his friend, noted eye doctor Jack Arroy of the American Eye Center.

The 100,000 check Casas won and his first in nearly eight months is a big boost to the Philippine Airline-sponsored pro whose dollar-based stints abroad have plugged a deep hole in his pocket.

Que ranks 4th

ANGELO Que shot a two-under-par 70 yesterday to stay in contention for the individual title and propel the Philippine men's team to the top 10 of the World Amateur Team Championship at the Saujan Golf & Country Club in Malaysia.

Counting his first round 72, Que posted a 142 aggregate, good for fourth place in the men's division and just three shots off pacesetter Gregory Bourdy of France (69+139).

Another Filipino, Jerome Delariarte, scored a 75, giving the Philippines a 145 total for the second round and 291 overall. Juvic Pagunsan's 77 did not count.

The Filipinos, trying to atone for their disappointing showing in the recent Busan Asian Games, are tied with the Taiwanese, the Finns and the Kiwis. They are five strokes behind the Americans and the French. *RL*

Andolong tourney

A GATHERING of friends of the late sportsman Nereo Andolong will be held today, Oct. 26, at the Villamor Golf Club where a fellowship golf event will usher the formal launching of the Andolong Memorial golf tournament.

For details, call tel. no. 853-0986 or 853-4977.

Petron GP resumes

THE 2002 SVI-Petron Grand Prix resumes today and tomorrow with the country's top competition drivers—Jody Coseteng of Red Horse-Auto Plus-Caltex and Kookie Ramirez of Petron-SRA—renewing their rivalry in the Blaze super saloon category at the Subic International Raceway.

Coseteng dominated the first seven races with surprising ease, but Ramirez came back with a vengeance and ruled the last three rounds to keep his slim hopes of winning the overall title and the prestigious "Driver of the Year" award alive.

YAO Ming (right) drives to the basket past Philadelphia 76ers Art Long in the first half of Ming's first game on his home court Thursday in Houston. The 76ers won, 93-89. Yao finished with 13 points. REUTERS

Putting Challenge on

AFTER the return of the pro circuit and so many amateur events held everywhere, the local golf scene enlivens furthermore as the eliminations for the Samsung Putting Challenge gets going today at the Aguinaldo Golf Club.

The putting competition doesn't necessarily require the good strokes with the woods and irons that seem too hard to perfect. It is more of a touch on the greens without the usual scare of the hazard and out-of bounds.

Easy as it is, the Samsung Putting Challenge will not be just a fun concept for the weekend golfer. With a shot at a brand-new car topping off the prizes, those lining up for the event is bound to take every putt seriously.

Professional Sports Management Group (PSMG) head Boy Blue Ocampo announced that those making an ace from their nine chances at the practice green of the club will be eligible to vie for the brand-new car in the grand finals next year.

Part of a three-in-one event dubbed as the Samsung DigitAll Golf Challenge, the putting tourney is sponsored by TaylorMade adidas, Gatorade, Maxfli, Custom Clubmakers, Hotshots Flame-Grilled Burgers. Wave 89.1, City Lite 88.3, 103.5 K-Lite, Magic 89.9, Killerbee and 99.5 RT are radio partners.

La Salle-Lipa spikers win

DE La Salle-Lipa topped three categories to rule the 2002 Philippine Volleyball League tournament in separate venues held recently.

DLS-Lipa won the boys 13-under, the girls 13-under and the girls 18-under categories in the championship held at the Brent School Pasig, even as Hope Christian High School took two trophies in the girls 18-under (B) and the girls 15-under competitions in the month-long tournament held in cooperation with La Salle Green Hills and supported by Healthy Options.

The Lipa-based spikers took the boys 13-under class at the expense of St. Joseph, 25-8, 25-19. Lourdes School of QC settled for third place after beating Colegio de San Agustin, 2-0.

DLS-Lipa also struck in the girls 13-under following a 25-19, 25-14 dumping of Colegio de San Agustin.

Breeders' program on radio

GAMEFOWL health and nutrition market leader Thunderbird Power Feeds and Univet Agricultural Products, in its effort to help in the gamefowl breeding industry and to assist new breeders on the scientific method of rooster-raising, is launching a month-long special segment over dzRH-AM radio starting Monday, Oct. 28.

Dubbed as the Thunderbird Winning Formula, the "breeder's assistance program on air" will form part of the daily morning broadcast anchored by the popular tandem of Deo "Bubuwit" Macalma and Ruth "Pangga" Abao-Espinosa.

Every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, gamefowl management tips from Breeding to conditioning will be discussed, wherein listeners can text their questions and inquiries on the subject matter through 2299 (Smart or Globe).

Just type THBIRD space MESSAGE and send to 2299.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1993, Jovie Saulog raced to a winning 45 minutes, 50 seconds to bag the second leg of the 1993 Endurocross Time Trials at the Victoria Valley in Antipolo. Also today in 1993, Rodolfo 'John John' Aquino Jr. shot 571 points to snare the match air rifle plum of the 1993 Philippine Airgun Open Shooting Championships.

On TV, it seems really easy, says Yao Ming

NEW YORK—Imagine how many kids are picking up basketballs in China at this very minute.

NBA commissioner David Stern did.

Almost 20 years ago.

The latest pin on the NBA's global map was put in place Wednesday night when Yao Ming of China, all of 7-foot-5 (2.26-meters) and just 22, made his debut in the biggest, baddest basketball show on the planet.

"When you watch it on TV it seems really easy," Yao said. "But when you are actually out there playing, it is extremely difficult."

The final line for the Houston Rockets rookie in a preseason loss to San Antonio proved just how difficult: six points on 1-for-5 shooting, 4-for-4 from the line, four rebounds, four fouls and three turnovers in 13 minutes.

But those numbers were almost beside the point.

The Los Angeles Lakers' quest to become the first team to four-peat in nearly 40 years will headline the upcoming NBA season. *AP*

4 days to NBA opening on Oct. 30. Did you know that Michael Jordan holds the record for most consecutive games with 40-or-more points in the NBA Finals? He scored 40 points four times in 1993 against the Phoenix Suns.

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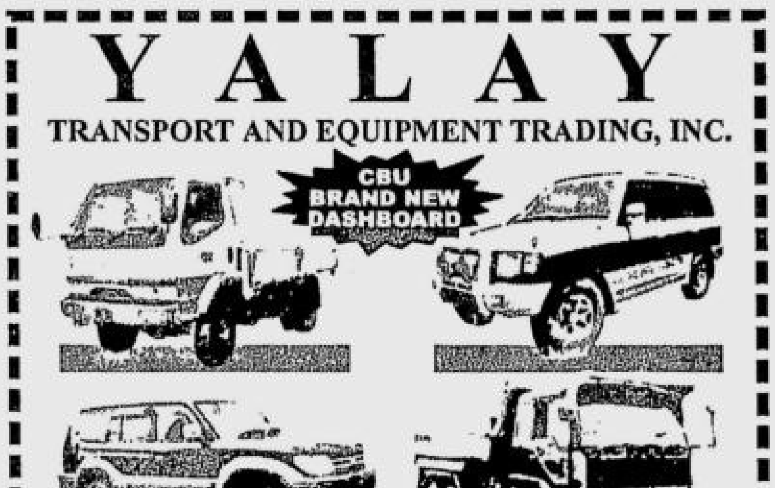

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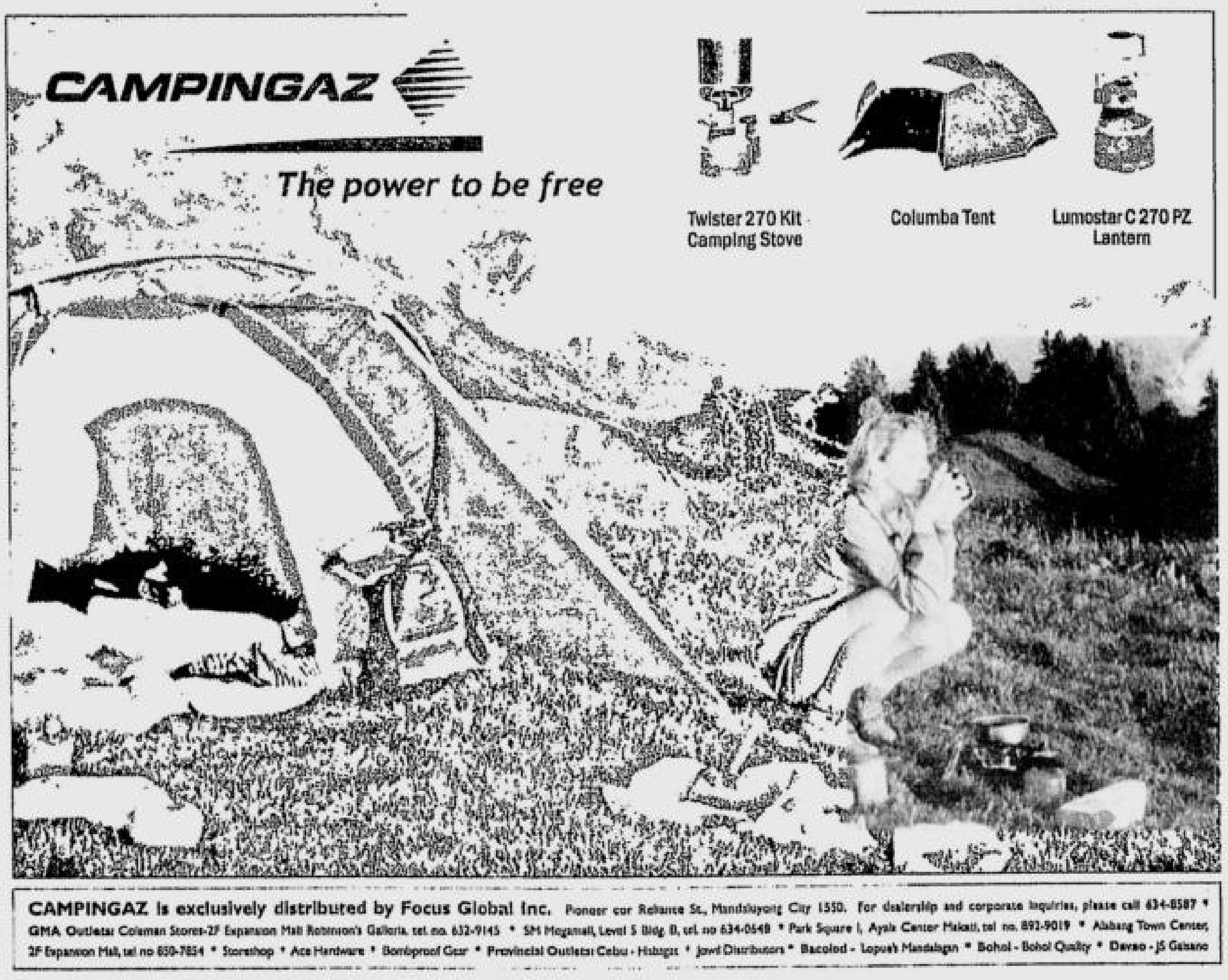

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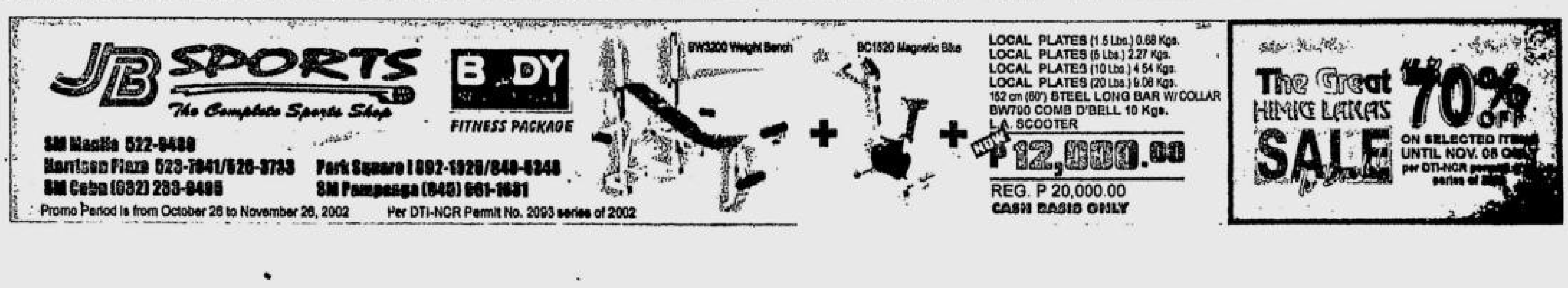

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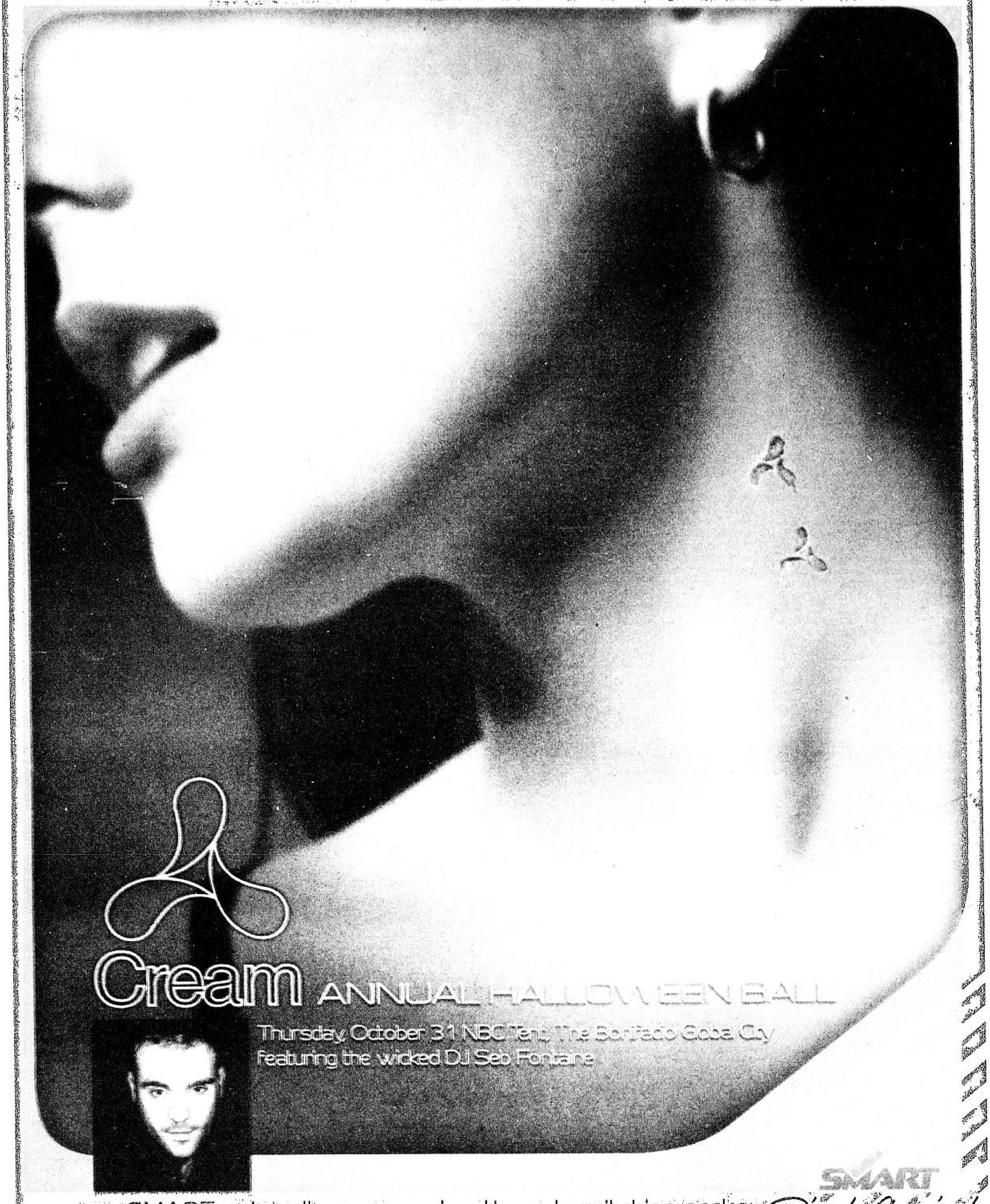
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METRO

■ Dead woman found at MRT /A29

Editor Louie C. Camino

■ ON TARGET: Reply to Bibit /A28

MORE COPS DEPLOYED

‘Bomb scare’ in 2 cities

By Jerome Aning and Tina Santos

MORE bomb scare incidents were reported in Manila and in Caloocan City yesterday even as the Metro Manila police chief said more policemen have been fielded in malls, bus stations and embassies.

In Manila, the Western Police District said it would deploy 1,000 officers in the city's three largest public cemeteries on All Saints' Day.

At least three bomb scare cases were reported in Manila yesterday. But the "bombs" found in a Malate karaoke bar, a Divisoria bank and a Sampaloc drugstore all turned out to be duds.

Members of the Western Police District's explosives and ordnance division went to the Karaoke King at Harrison Plaza in Malate about 10:30 a.m. after a plastic bag was found in front of the place.

The plastic bag, however, was found

BOMB/ A27

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MUNTING TINIG
Small Voices

"MGA Munting Tinig" director Gil Portes and and star Alessandra de Rossi may be Hollywood-bound.

RANDY HORMILLOSA

‘Tinig’ goes to Oscars

By Marinel R. Cruz

"MGA Munting Tinig," Gil Portes' movie about a young teacher who brings hope to a poor village, is the official Philippine entry to the 75th Academy Awards, or the Oscars, in March 2003, the Film Academy of the Philippines (FAP) announced yesterday.

"We think the uni-

'TINIG'/ A29

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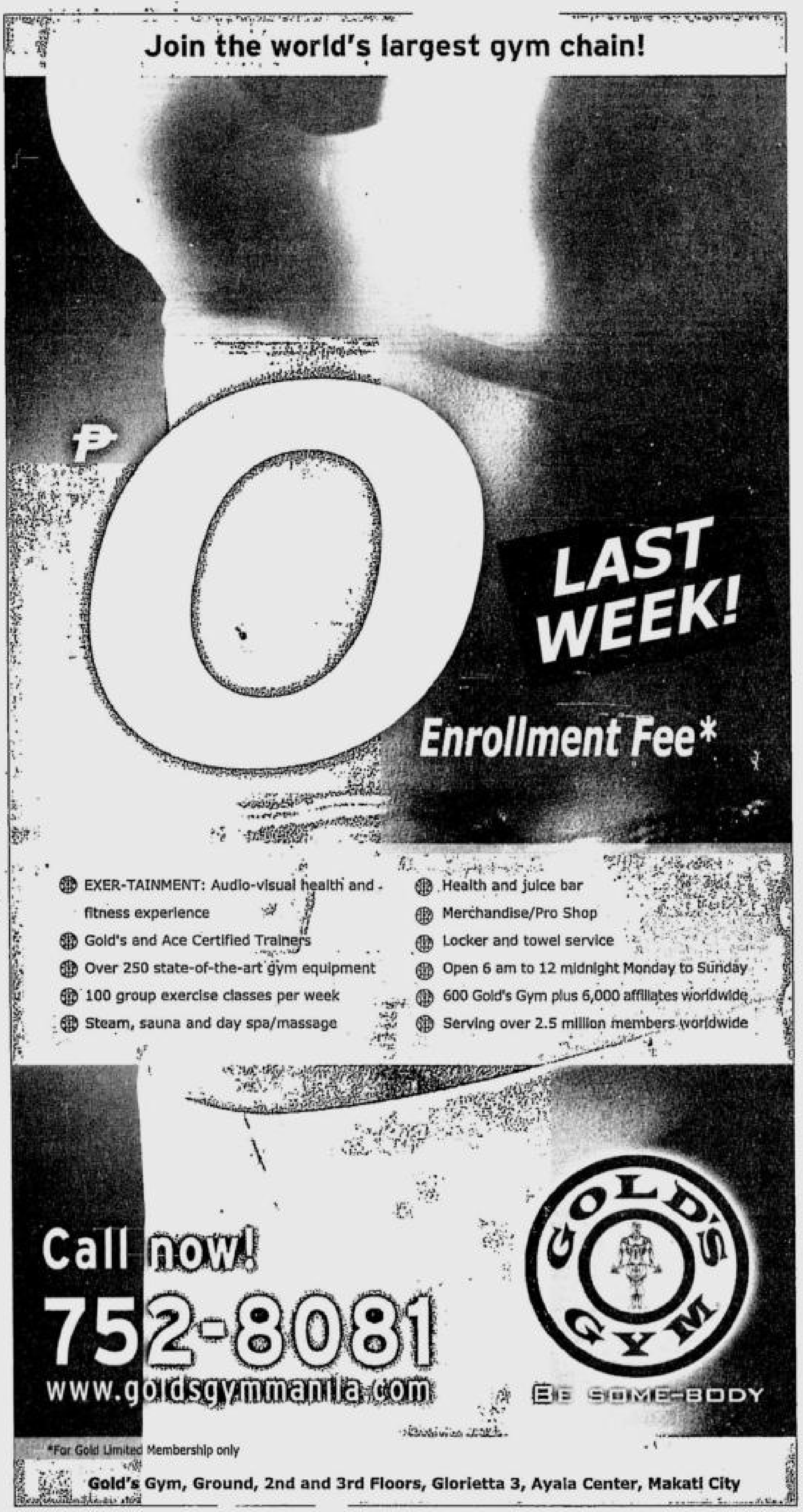
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ArtFilm Greenbelt 1

OPENS NOVEMBER 6

AYALA CINEMAS

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— Nev Pierce, BBC

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— Paul Clinton, CNN

MTRCB RATING: PARENTAL GUIDANCE 13

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8 BALLISTIC ECK VS' SEVER
9 HALLOWEEN RESURRETION

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5 9 MORNING
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7 BED TIME STORY
8 TUXEDO
9 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION

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2 JEANIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
3 RED DRAGON

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3 9 MORNING

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2 9 MORNING
3 JEANIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
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2 LOLLIPOP
3 9 MORNINGS
4 POSSESSION

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8 THE TUXEDO
9 BEDTIME STORIES
10 MR. DEEDS

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10 MUNTING TINIG
11 BEDTIME STORIES
12 9 MORNINGS

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10 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
11 BEDTIME STORIES
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4 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
5 THE TUXEDO
6 RED DRAGON
7 PLUTO NASH
8 BALLISTIC

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2 MR. DEEDS
3 RED DRAGON
4 9 MORNINGS
5 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
6 THE TUXEDO
7 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
8 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
9 BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER
10 BEDTIME STORIES

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2 THE TOUCH
3 BLOODWORK
4 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
5 VOODOO
6 9 MORNINGS
7 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
8 RED DRAGON

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2 CLOSED
3 BLOODWORK
4 9 MORNINGS
5 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
6 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
7 CLOSED
8 VAN WILDER

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2 RED DRAGON
3 BALLISTIC
4 9 MORNINGS
5 POSSESSION
6 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG

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2 RED DRAGON
3 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
4 9 MORNINGS

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3 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
4 9 MORNINGS

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3 MR. DEEDS
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2 BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
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6 RED DRAGON
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8 9 MORNINGS

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6 BEDTIME STORIES

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2 THE TUXEDO
3 JEANNIE... BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG?
4 VAN WILDER
5 9 MORNINGS
6 BLOOD WORK

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961- 5318 / 5270

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2 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Aguinaldo 'son' says he lost 22 land titles

By Alcuin Papa

A MAN who claimed to be a son of Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo has filed a complaint with police against a Quezon City bus company, saying one of its buses in which he was supposed to be riding left without him but with 22 titles of land that he owns.

Delfin Aguinaldo, 72, of 585 Paseo Rueda St. in San Jose City, Nueva Ecija, told police he boarded a Baliwag bus bound for Nueva Ecija at the bus company's terminal on Edsa, Quezon City. about 7 p.m. on Thursday.

He said that while the bus was still at the station, he went to the bathroom but told the driver that he would be coming back.

Aguinaldo said he was surprised that the bus had left when he returned from the bathroom.

He said he told a security guard of the bus company that he had left in the bus titles to about 100 hectares of land in Nueva Ecija and Kawit, Cavite. He said he went to the Kamuning police station to file a complaint against the bus company.

Aguinaldo also appealed to anyone who found the titles to coordinate with him or the Kamuning police station.

'Bomb scare' in 2 cities

From page A25

to contain video compact discs.

The security guard at the Mercury Drug along España Boulevard in Sampaloc called the police at 11:40 a.m. to report a "suspicious" bag that had been left on the counter.

When EOD men examined the bag, they found candleholders inside.

The Metrobank branch at the Tutuban Mall in Divisoria also reported the discovery of a plastic bag just outside its front door.

This time, a leather bag, which looked newly purchased, was found inside the plastic bag.

In Caloocan City a neatly wrapped object was mistaken for an explosive when it was found near a gasoline station yesterday morning.

Supt. Dionisio Borromeo, chief of the Caloocan station intelligence and investigation division, said the package, wrapped in masking tape, was found near Petron station at the corner of Samson Road and Francisco Street about 9:30 a.m.

PO3 Alwin Tumulat, one of the responding lawmen, said a bomb-sniffing dog focused on the package which, however, turned out to contain lanzones peelings and used diapers.

Tumulat said the bomb scare caused a traffic jam in the area for about three hours.

"The object could have been deliberately placed there to cause confusion and terror," Tumulat said.

On Wednesday, the chief of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco, said more policemen had been fielded in all malls, foreign embassies, bus stations, ports and other major installations in Metro Manila to preempt new bombing attempts.

Velasco said the tightening of the security measures was made in coordination with the Philippine Association of Detective Agency Operators (Padpao) and 16 civic, business and non-government organizations.

In Manila on Nov. 1, the additonal policemen will be stationed inside or within the vicinity of the Manila North Cemetery and Chinese Cemetery in Sta. Cruz and the city-owned Manila South Cemetery in Makati City, according to the WPD director, Senior Supt. Pedro Bulaong.

Aside from watching out for possible terrorists, the police would also be on the lookout for petty criminals, car thefts and kidnappers, he said.

Mayor Lito Atienza said he instructed the WPD to be "extra-strict" in implementing security measures in the cemeteries.

"I'd like to apoligize in advance if the strict security measures would inconvenience the people, but we would be doing this for everybody's sake," he said.

The mayor said one need not go to the cemetery on Nov. 1 since Malacañang has declared a four-day holiday beginning Oct. 31.

"If they are worried about security, they could visit their dead not on Nov. 1," he added.

He said he wants a single and centralized public service address system in each cemetery.

He complained that many radio stations often set up their own public service sound systems in the cemeteries. Councilors, congressmen and other city officials also put up booths with loud speakers to help people who get lost or those who have emergency needs.

The single public service system would be operated by City Hall personnel, Atienza said.

Bulaong said three groups of lawmen would be deployed at dawn on Oct. 31 and would remain at their posts until midnight of Nov. 2.

They would be backed by 20 patrol cars who would keep a close watch on the exits and entrances of the graveyards.

There would be four teams from the WPD explosives and ordnance division, Bulaong said.

The usual ban on liquor, firearms and deadly weapons would be enforced, he said.

Water cutoff

WATER services in certain areas of Manila and Makati were interrupted beginning 9 p.m. last night because of maintenance work being carried out by Maynilad Water Services Inc. (MWSI).

It said water services will resume at 7 p.m. tonight.

The water service interruption would allow Maynilad to insert a valve at MSDR corner Pasay Road, Makati, and another at the corner of President Quirino and Pedro Gil Street, Manila.

Residents may call Maynilad Hotline 1626 or Manila Hotline 1627 for water deliveries.

Arellano Class '55

THE OFFICERS of Arellano High School Class '55 will take their oath of office today at the Capiz Room of Holiday Inn Manila on UN Avenue corner Maria Orosa Street.

To be sworn in by acting Court of Appeals presiding Justice Cancio Garcia are lawyer Percival Salazar, chair; Jaime Ladao, president; Ray B. Pilar, first vice president; Dolores Legaspi Lim, second vice president; Ester Gomez, secretary; Honorata de Leon, treasurer; Gus B. Villanueva, press relations officer; Agrifina Fajardo, auditor; Aurelio David, liaison officer; Naty Ledesma, assistant secretary; and Linda Tenefrancia-Supnet, assistant treasurer.

The other officers are Ted Legaspi and Moises Maniego, ways and means committee co-chair; and program/invitation heads Baby Caparas and Delia Galvez.

Justice Garcia is also a member of Class '55. US-based Letty Balagtas-Jacinto, is a special guest.

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On-Event: Ten (10) Lucky SIM Swappers will be chosen to Meet Freestyle and Ogie Alcasid in person! SIM Swappers who won free tickets will automatically be included in the raffle to get a chance to meet the artists right after the show. Winners will be announced during the event proper, and they must present their SMART cellfone with the mobile number of their new SMART SIM when claiming their prize.

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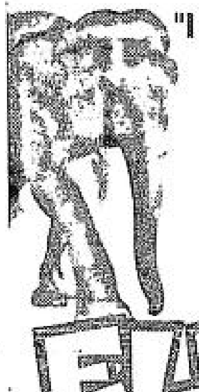

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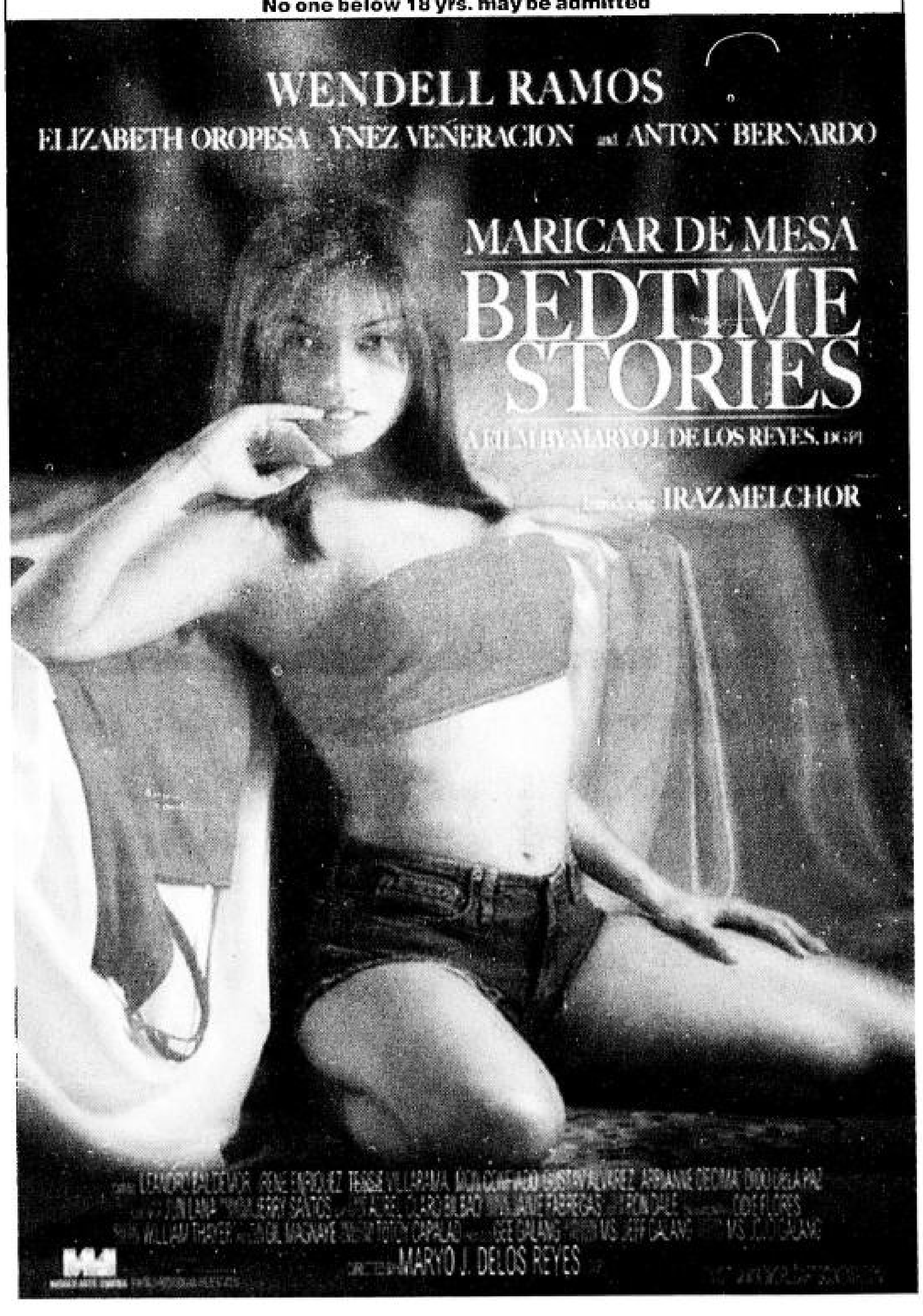

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Tribute to Nonoy

A TRIBUTE to Nonoy Marcelo, titled "Ba-bye, Bos Myawok," will be held tonight starting at 8 p.m. at the National Press Club in Intramuros, Manila.

It is organized by the staff of the Manila Times-PTYK Magazine.

For more details, please contact Da Marcelo at 924-8225 or Pandy Aviado at 928-6979.

Reply to Bibit

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

CEBU Customs Collector Billy Bibit complained that this corner had been "picking on" him even when, he said, he continued to to post "positive performance" in his revenue collection in his district.

In a letter published in the letters section of the INQUIRER, Bibit asked why had I been silent on the "mediocre performance" of other district collectors and collection districts.

"Why pick on a district collector and collection district with an otherwise positive performance and which continues to bring in much-needed revenues for the cash-strapped government, and remain silent on the mediocre performance of other district collectors and collection districts," said Bibit in his letter to the editors.

Bibit was implying that this writer was being personal with him, that I was motivated by ill feelings toward him.

* * *

Let me tell Bibit that there's no love lost between the two of us. He just happens to be a government official and I happen to be a journalist.

Even if Billy Bibit and I happened to be the best of friends, I would still criticize him—in fact, all the more so—to wake him up.

Bibit is not the perfect customs official he projects himself to be.

* * *

He said that a day before this column saw print on Oct. 5, he opened a shipment of seized smuggled rice in the presence of a TV news crew.

I had said that Bibit, despite orders from his superiors in Manila, had continued to withhold the opening of a big shipment of seized smuggled rice that landed at the Cebu port several weeks earlier.

"If I had not seized the smuggled rice and if I were a party to smuggling, I would have kept the opening of the container vans away from the media and the public," the Cebu customs collector said.

* * *

Hold it right there, Billy the Bibit!

You beat me to the draw, Billy. You knew beforehand that I was already making inquiries about the smuggled shipment from your superiors in Manila.

From the time I started asking around and the publication of that column on Oct. 6, there was a wide time gap.

My customs sources said you were forced to obey your superiors in Manila because you knew that your continued intransigence would be exposed.

* * *

When I learned about your withholding the opening of the seized smuggled rice shipment, two weeks had already elapsed after you received orders from Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo and his deputy, Ray Allas, to seize the shipment in question.

Your superiors in Manila waited for you to carry out their orders, but you continued to defy them.

I learned about the stand-off from one of your subordinates in Cebu, whose identity I will never reveal, and some sources in Manila. Another source who tipped me off about your continued defiance was an employee in the Office of the Customs Commissioner.

* * *

Now, Mr. Bibit, let's talk about your "positive performance" at the Cebu port.

"When I arrived on July 16, I immediately arrested the port's negative output and registered a collection surplus of 81.11 percent from July 16 to 30, with a P217.33-million collection for 15 days or almost double the target for the month pegged at P120 million," the Cebu customs collector said.

Customs officials and employees I asked about Bibit's letter to the editors gave a knowing smile about his obvious back-patting.

* * *

"*Tanungin mo siya,* Mon, *kung bakit wala nang* technical smuggling *sa ibang* port. *Nandoon na binabagsak ang kanilang kargamiyento sa* Cebu (Ask him why there is no longer technical smuggling in other ports. Smugglers are dumping their cargo in Cebu)," said a customs official.

First, let's define "technical smuggling." It is evading the payment of the right tariff on imported goods. It is different from outright smuggling which completely evades any payment of duties and taxes on goods being brought into the country.

I'd like to ask Mr. Bibit why very few imported cargoes land in other ports, and therefore, those ports suffer from very low collection.

* * *

But I will answer that question myself, based on what some customs officials told me: Because importers who want to pay a lower tariff on their highly dutiable cargo land their goods at the Cebu port.

At the Cebu port, my sources say, technical smuggling is now rampant as it was rampant at the Subic Freeport when Bibit was its customs collector.

Highly dutiable cargo—like second-hand cars, importation of which has been banned— land in droves in Cebu because it has become a "free port" for smugglers.

* * *

On the surface, the Bureau of Customs is earning much-needed revenue at the Cebu port. Bibit is trumpeting his collection surplus.

But actually, the government is losing revenues because the importers are not paying the right amount of duties and taxes on their goods.

In customs parlance, that's called "undervaluation of cargo" or "misdeclaration of cargo."

That answers why I have been silent on the "mediocre performance" of the other ports. They are being given unfair competition by the Cebu port..

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'Who are concerned residents?'

By Christian V. Esguerra

PARAÑAQUE officials who could face plunder charges before the Ombudsman for the alleged overprice of a P130-million public market want to know who had filed the graft case against them.

Parañaque chief legal officer Luis Mendoza challenged the complainants to come out in the open.

"If they think they have a strong case against us, why don't they come out in the open," he said.

The complainants only identified themselves as "Concerned Residents." They requested the Ombudsman's Office of the Special Prosecutor to investigate the alleged P30-million overprice of the public market in Barangay La Huerta.

Among the complainants are two residents of Airport Village.

Mendoza dismissed the complaint as politically motivated since it was made two years after the market had been completed.

"Why only now?" he asked. "Why didn't they sue us before the market was finished?"

The residents claimed that the market was initially priced at P99.8 million but Parañaque officials allegedly jacked up the amount to P130 million.

Implicated in the case were Mayor Joey Marquez, city administrator Antonio Abad, city engineer Reydivino Deval Santos, city treasurer Liberato Carabeo, internal auditor Eduardo Hayab, and PLERM Construction and Development Corp.

Mendoza explained that the price adjustment was "very natural" and came after the contractor started the actual construction of the project.

He said the revision had been approved by the Commission on Audit and the Philippine National Bank which financed the project.

"You see, we're not hiding anything here," he said. "Records will clearly show that there's no plunder."

VICTIM COULD HAVE BEEN RAPED

Dead woman found at MRT

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE BODY of an unidentified woman, believed to be a rape victim, was found in the Guadalupe MRT station in Makati City early yesterday morning.

Police said the woman had several stab wounds in different parts of the body. She was wearing a black shirt and a pair of blue pants which had been pulled down.

Investigators described the victim as about 20 years old, slim, fair, 5-foot-2 and with shoulder length hair.

Her body was taken to the Veronica Funeral Home in Pasay City, SP04 Leonardo Timtiman said.

According to a police report, MRT security guard Domingo G. Oneja, 36, of Valenzuela, was doing his rounds when he found the bloody remains of the woman near the elevator of the MRT station overpass on the southbound lane at 5:25 a.m.

The MRT overpass is used not only by MRT commuters but also by pedestrians who cross the highway.

Investigators said the woman could have fought off her attacker, which prompted the suspect to stab her.

Bloodstained slipper prints leading away from the body were also found.

Police said that judging from the size-9 slipper prints, the suspect could be a big man.

No identification cards were found on the victim.

Police also said they did not find any wallet, jewelry or bag that could have belonged to the victim.

Investigators are hoping that something would turn up on the security cameras in the MRT station.

Police said the camera near the area where the body was found was turned off, but another camera in the area might have caught the suspect on tape.

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BF: Barangay chairs will be held liable

By Leila B. Salaverria and Jerome Aning

BARANGAY chairs would be held liable for the abuses committed by the soon-to-be-armed barangay tanod, said Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando.

In Manila, a councilor yesterday repeated his appeal to allow private gun owners to organize themselves into "peace volunteers" to fight terrorism instead of arming barangay *tanod*.

Fernando again defended the proposal, saying the arming of the barangay *tanod* is also a deterrent to a much-feared coup de etat.

Fernando told reporters on Friday that whoever would want to mount a coup would have to do a lot of work to get the support of the barangay.

"You have to convince more than 140,000 barangay captains before you can launch a coup," he said. "You have to get them together (for them) to be a potent force. It would take a long time to convince all the *tanod*."

He pointed out that "the best assurance (against tanod abuse) is the barangay captain who is elected. He has to make sure his *tanod* perform well or else he would lose the election."

Councilor Julio Logarta Jr. of Manila's 5th district said his proposal allows barangay chairs and city officials to form "Barangay Volunteers for Peace," composed of duly licensed gun holders.

He said arming the barangay watchmen would be "a high-risk proposition."

"Ask the barangay chairs and they will tell you that they have to handle problems themselves because, more often than not, problems become worse instead of being solved when left to the *tanod*," Logarta explained.

Organizing citizens with licensed guns would also save the government money since it would not have to buy guns for the tanod, Logarta added.

"The cost of the guns is just the starting expense," he said. "The *tanod* still have to be trained without the assurance of positive results."

'Tinig' goes...

From page A25

versality of the theme of 'Munting Tinig' will have a strong appeal to the jurors in the Oscar awards," FAP screening committee member Robert Arevalo told the INQUIRER.

"The country's Oscar representative does not have to be the best-crafted film but it has to have substance," he explained. "International jurors put more weight on substance and artistry than the technical aspects of a film."

"Mga Munting Tinig" bested other nominees "American Adobo" by Laurice Guillen, "Hubog" by Joel Lamangan, and "Yamashita: The Tiger's Treasure" by Chito Roño. Nominees were shown between November 2001 and October 2002, according to Arevalo.

"I'm honored that my work will represent the country in the Oscars for the third time," director Portes said.

His "Saranggola (The Kite)" and "Gatas . . . sa Dibdib ng Kaaway" were the Philippine entries to the Oscars in 2001 and 1999, respectively.

Portes said it must have been his latest movie's unique and distinctly Filipino characteristic that helped it win the honor to represent the country in the Oscars.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts Science (Ampas), a group of more than 6,000 motion picture professionals , chooses five finalists from among films sent by different countries to compete in the Best Foreign Film category.

The Ampas authorized the FAP to select the Philippine representative, Arevalo said.

He said last year's Oscars best foreign film, "No Man's Land" from Bosnia, is the perfect example of a winning film. It tells the story of three wounded soldiers at the height of the Bosnian war—one Serb and two Bosnians—who find themselves trapped together in a foxhole on disputed territory.

Portes co-wrote "Mga Munting Tinig" with Adolfo Alix Jr. and Senedy Que for Team Works Productions.

The movie had its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival last Sept. 10. It was also cited as one of the 10 Asian new film classics by the American Film Institute. It will be featured in the international film fests in L.A. on Nov. 8-11, in Rotterdam in January and in Locarno, Italy in February.

The five-member FAP screening committee is chaired by German Moreno. The members are Arevalo, director Arsenio "Boots" Bautista, Screenwriter's Guild of the Philippines president Buddy Palad, and Movie Producers and Distributor's Association of the Philippines president John Suarez.

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QC amok kills 1, injures 5

By Alcuin Papa

A MAN suspected to be mentally deranged went amuck on Thursday night in Quezon City and killed an elderly man and injured five other people, according to the city's police.

Investigators said Eliseo Ignacio, 30, of Barangay Holy Spirit, Quezon City, stabbed to death Pablito Jamiliarin, 60, also of Barangay Holy Spirit.

Ignacio also attacked and injured Netro Kiray, 44, a traffic enforcer, Norlito de la Rosa, 41, Antonio Ramos, 53, and high school students Jerome and Jessica Pacheco, police added.

According to the police report, Jamiliarin was resting outside his house when his neighbor Ignacio began acting strangely, brandishing a jungle bolo, at about 10:30 p.m. in Barangay Holy Spirit.

Without provocation, Ignacio attacked his neighbors, beginning with the elderly Jamiliarin, investigator's learned.

Responding policemen and barangay watchmen managed to take Ignacio into custody.

Police said Jamiliarin died while he was being treated at the East Avenue Medical Center.

Residents of Holy Spirit claimed that Ignacio had been treated once in a mental hospital for paranoia.

They said Ignacio was convinced that that certain men intended to kill him.

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Goya En Burdeos 9:30pm

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Goya En Burdeos 11:30pm
Solas 2:00pm
Tesis 4:30pm
El Abuello 7:00pm
La Ardilla Roja 9.30pm

October 23 (Wed)
Retrato de Mujer 11:30pm
Con Homre Al Fondo
El Abuello 2:00pm
Bwana 4:30pm
Goya En Burdeos 7:00pm
Solas 9:30pm

October 24 (Thu.)
Tesis 11:30pm
Goya En Burdeos 2:00pm
El Abuello 4:30pm
Bwana 7:00pm
Retrato de Mujer 9:30pm
Con Homre Al Fondo

October 25 (Fri)
El Abuello 11:30pm
Retrato de Mujer 2:30pm
Con Homre Al Fondo
Bwana 4:30pm
Tesis 7:00pm
Solas 9.30pm

October 26 (Tue)
Bwana 11.30pm
Retrato de Mujer 2:00pm
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Goya En Burdeos 4:30pm
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9 MORNINGS - GP 12:00,2:15,4:30,6:45 RED DRAGON - R18 9:00PM	PLUTO NASH P13 11:35, 1:45, 3:55, 6:05, 8:15, 10:30	BALLISTIC P13 11:35,1:40,3:45, 5:50,7:55,10:00
HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION - P13 11:40,1:40,3:40, 5:40,7:40,9:40	POSSESSION P13 12:20,2:30,4:40, 6:50,9:00	RED DRAGON R18 11:30,2:10,4:50, 7:30,10:10

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THIS YEAR, SANTA'S COMING TO TOWN EARLY
OPENS NOVEMBER 1
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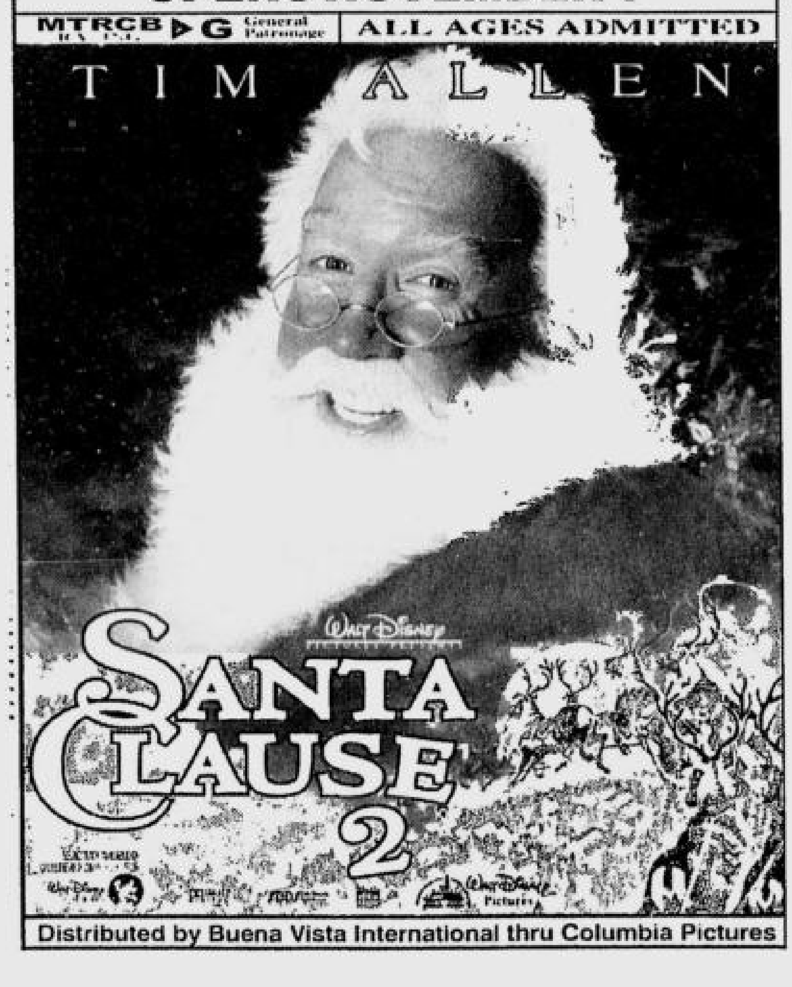
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- Association of Asian-American Film Critics, U.S.A.
www.smallvoices.cjb.net

'Postpone auction'

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE MANILA International Airport Authority (MIAA) yesterday appealed to the Parañaque government to postpone the sale of the country's premier airport through public auction until the court has ruled with finality on the issue.

MIAA general manager Edgar Manda warned of more legal complications if the local government would proceed with the auction next month.

"We don't want to second-guess Parañaque's strategy," he said. "But we believe the auction would further complicate things."

Manda suggested that the MIAA and city officials finish their dialogues to determine the local government's territorial jurisdiction on the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Airport officials had earlier agreed to settle P724 million in realty taxes once Naia's boundaries have been established and the court has finally ruled in favor of the local government.

The MIAA vowed to go to the Supreme Court after the Court of Appeals junked its petition to stop the Naia auction initially set in February. The resolution paved the way for next month's sale of the airport.

Manda said the airport authority would also exhaust all legal remedies should the Court of Appeals make a similar ruling in another case that involves Pasay City.

Pasay Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad has started auction proceedings for Naia for its supposed failure to pay about P800 million in realty taxes.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	BIGLANG LIKO / SEX & ZEN
ODEON	BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
ODEON-2	KARTA ALAS / NAKED NIGHTS
ROBEN	BEDTIME STORY
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	MINORITY REPORT / SLACKERS
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	BEDTIME STORY
REMAR	BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
REMAR-2	BEDTIME STORY
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
B	BEDTIME STORY
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	BALLISTIC
CINEMA-2	POSSESSION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
CINEMA-2	BEDTIME STORY
CINEMA-3	BESTMAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TUXEDO
CINEMA-6	LOLLIPOP
CINEMA-7	PARAISONG PARISUKAT
CINEMA-8	MR DEEDS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	RED DRAGON
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BALLISTIC
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
CINEMA-12	9 MORNINGS
CINEMA-14	MUNTING TINIG
CINEMA-15	BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	MR. DEEDS
CINEMA 2	9 MORNINGS
CINEMA 3	BESTMAN
CINEMA 4	K-19
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
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CINEMA-4	SELDA

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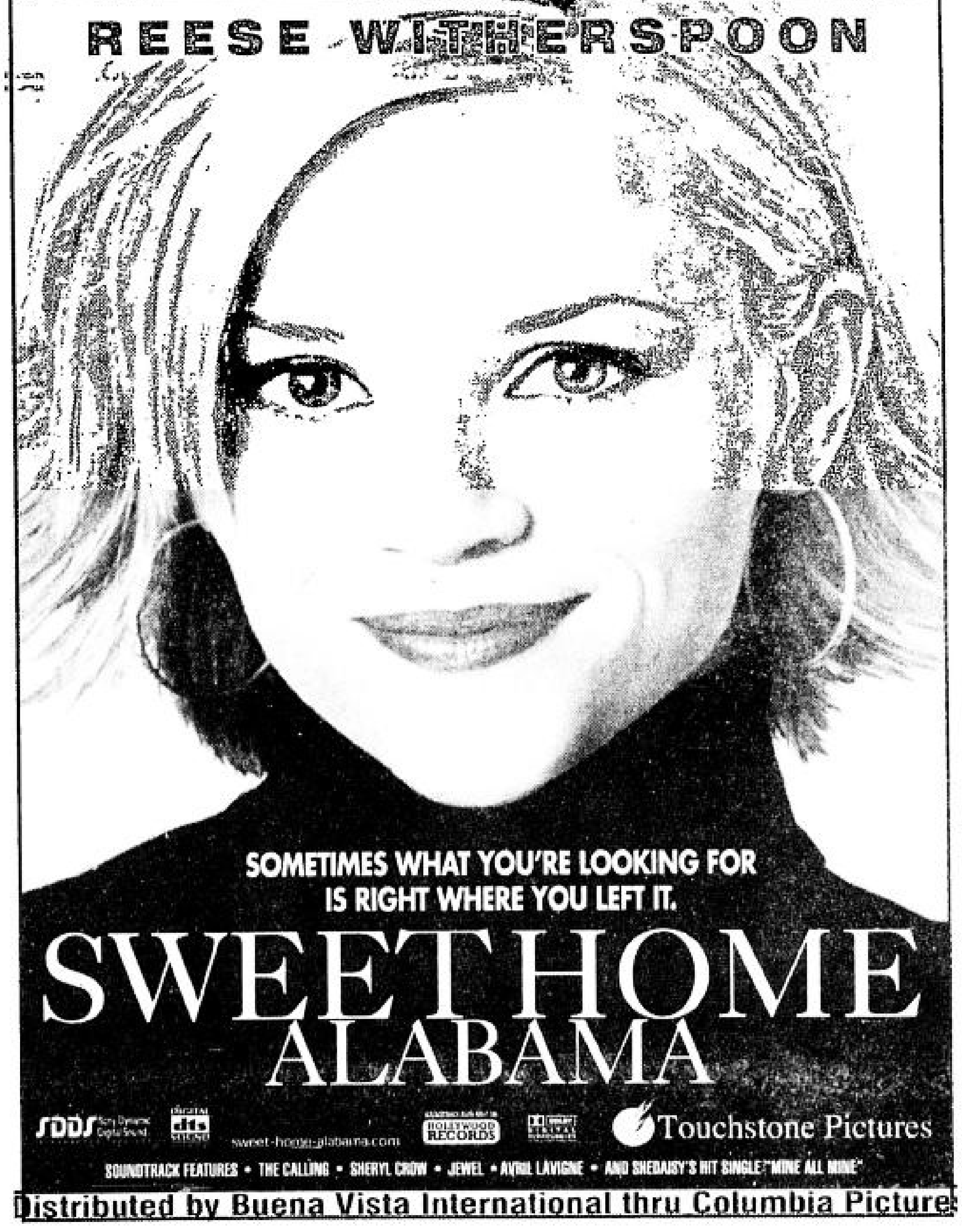

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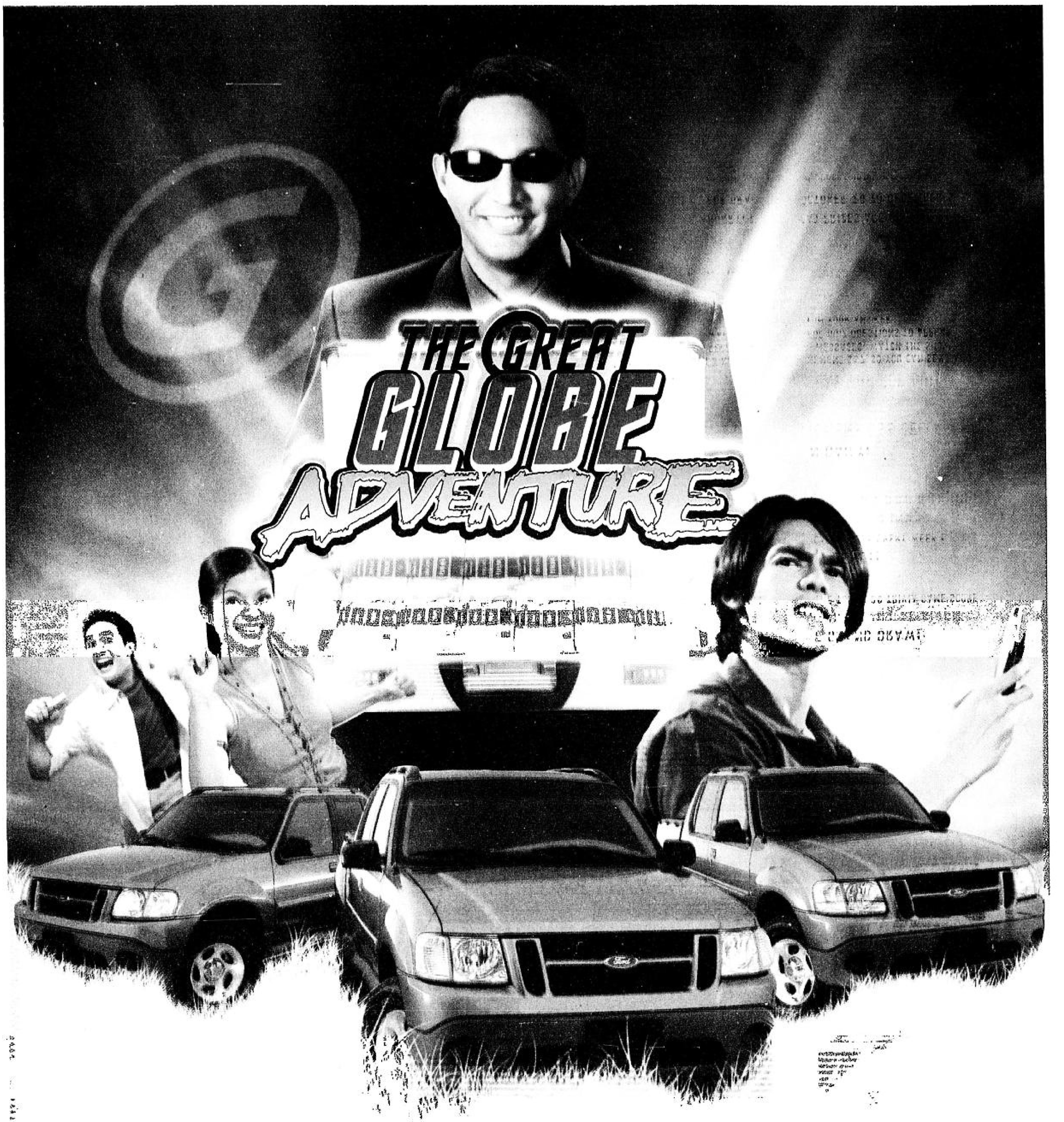

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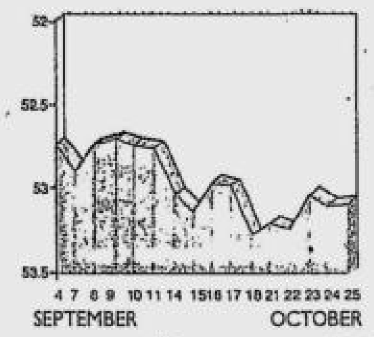

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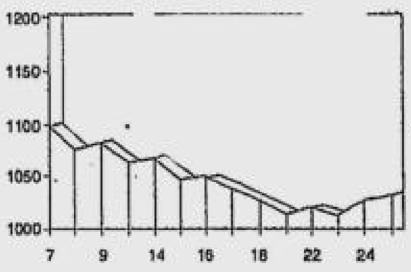


(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARES closed higher Friday as bargain-hunters continued to accumulate select oversold stocks, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended up 4.50 points, or 0.4 percent, at 1032.09, adding to Thursday's 1.5-percent gain.

Volume turnover rose to 262.79 million shares worth P637.5 million from 91 million shares worth P333.17 million on Thursday.

Blue chips which lagged the previous session's rally helped boost the main index Friday, traders said.

"There was a continuation of yesterday's buying although investors were still cautious," Westlink Global Equities analyst Rommel Macapagal told Dow Jones Newswires. "The market's rise was also tempered because we're moving into a weekend."

Macapagal described the market's rise as largely technical in nature, considering that the main index tumbled to an 11-month closing low of 1012.86 points earlier this week. *AP*

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT'S total outstanding debt as of August stood at P2.695 trillion, up by 18 percent or P411.46 billion from P2.284 trillion a year ago, following the Macapagal administration's borrowing binge during the eight-month period to finance a huge budget gap.

The Department of Finance said yesterday the end-August figure was up by 1.4 percent or P37.8 billion from July.

Of the total, domestic debt amounted to P1.408 trillion while foreign debt reached P1.287 trillion.

Of the outstanding debt, 15 percent was in short-term liabilities, 25.3 percent in medium-term, and 59.7 percent in long-term liabilities.

The majority of foreign debt, 57.4 percent, was in US dollars while 33.6 percent was denominated in Japanese yen and the balance in other currencies.

As of August, the total outstanding contingent debt of the national government, or guarantees given to government-controlled and owned corporations, stood at P546.7 billion, up 7.9 percent from July.

Data from the Bureau of Treasury showed that of the month-on-month increase, domestic debts accounted for P15.7 billion while foreign debts took up P22.1 billion in August.

Although the national government had no fresh foreign borrowings in August, sources said other state agencies could have tapped the overseas market for funds.

At the same time, the national government released to National Power Corp. only in August the $500 million in funds it had borrowed on behalf of the power firm out of the $750 million that the Treasury would relend to the state-run utility this year.

The peso's weakness in August had contributed to the year-on-year surge in foreign debts.

The government had used a foreign exchange average of P51.80 to a dollar in computing its obligations in August compared to an average of P51.15 the previous month and P51.2 percent a year ago.

In September, the government went back to the foreign bond market to raise $300 million worth of five-year funds.

January-July dollar remittances hit $4.26B

NURSES, engineers, IT professionals and the rest of the 5 million Filipinos working abroad have sent a total of $4.264 billion to their families as of end-July, up from $3.418 billion a year ago.

But data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed that there was a marked slowdown in the growth of dollar remittances of overseas Filipino workers as the average year-on-year increase of 40 percent fell to 24.8 percent during the month of July.

During the month, Filipinos working abroad sent home only $121 million, down from $525 million in June. This followed the $791 million in May, $863 million in April and $905 million in March.

Still, the BSP said the volume of remittances in 2002 had improved tremendously from the previous years and that the government's forecast of hitting an all-time high of $8 billion in OFW inflows by year's end remained achievable.

"In the next three years, higher remittances are anticipated with the expanded hiring of OFWs in the medical field," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

The substantial dollar inflows from Filipino workers boosted the country's income accounts to post a surplus of $2.564 billion as of July, up 69.7 percent from the previous year.

The income account reflects the flow of funds largely due to trade in services.

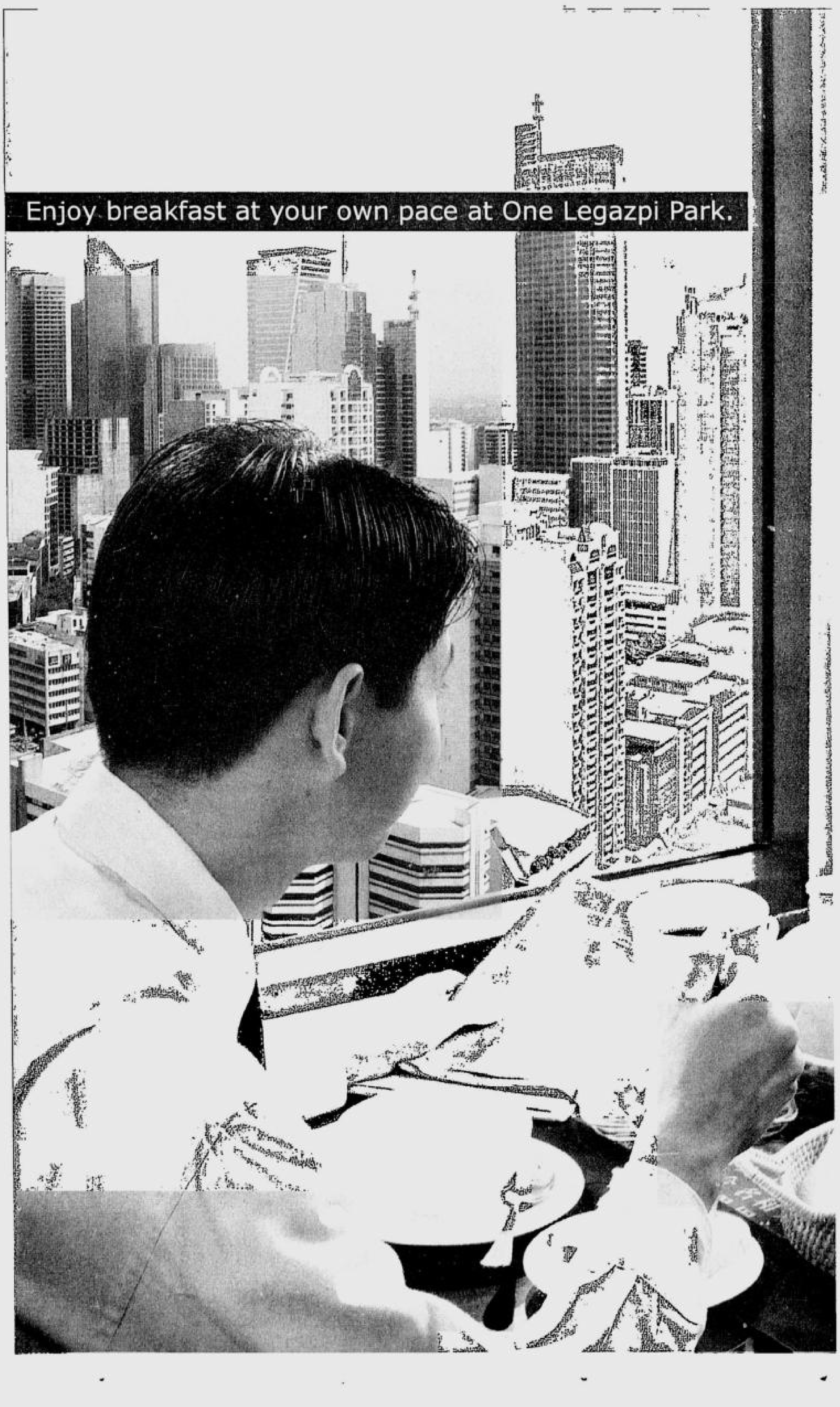
But despite the dollars sent by the Filipino workers to their families, the peso was volatile for most of July.

BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. insisted that a strong foreign exchange inflow helped meet the dollar requirements of the companies and eased the pressure on the local currency specially during volatile periods.

Using data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, the BSP noted that the number of Filipinos who were freshly hired and re-hired grew by 4.3 percent to 558,376 as of July against 533,193 a year ago.

The central bank said that aside from the Middle East, the newly hired and re-hired Filipinos also trooped to Europe, the United States, and other parts of Asia.

"The government continues to step up marketing missions to promote Filipino skills abroad. Prospects are bright, with the expanded hiring of the United Kingdom in the medical field," Tetangco said.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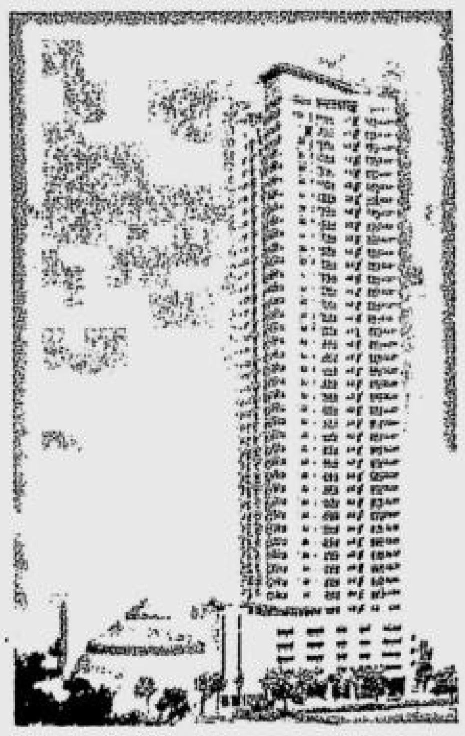

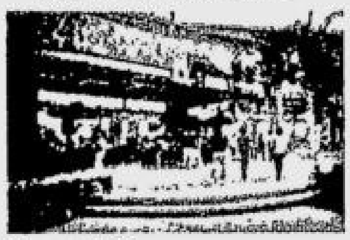

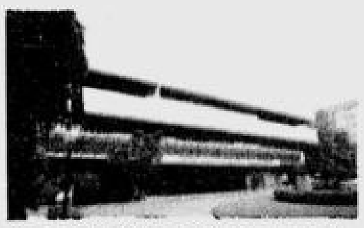

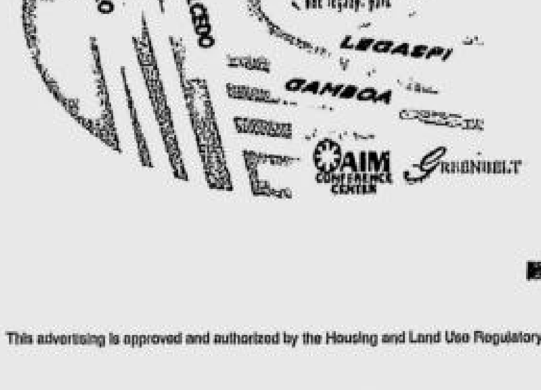

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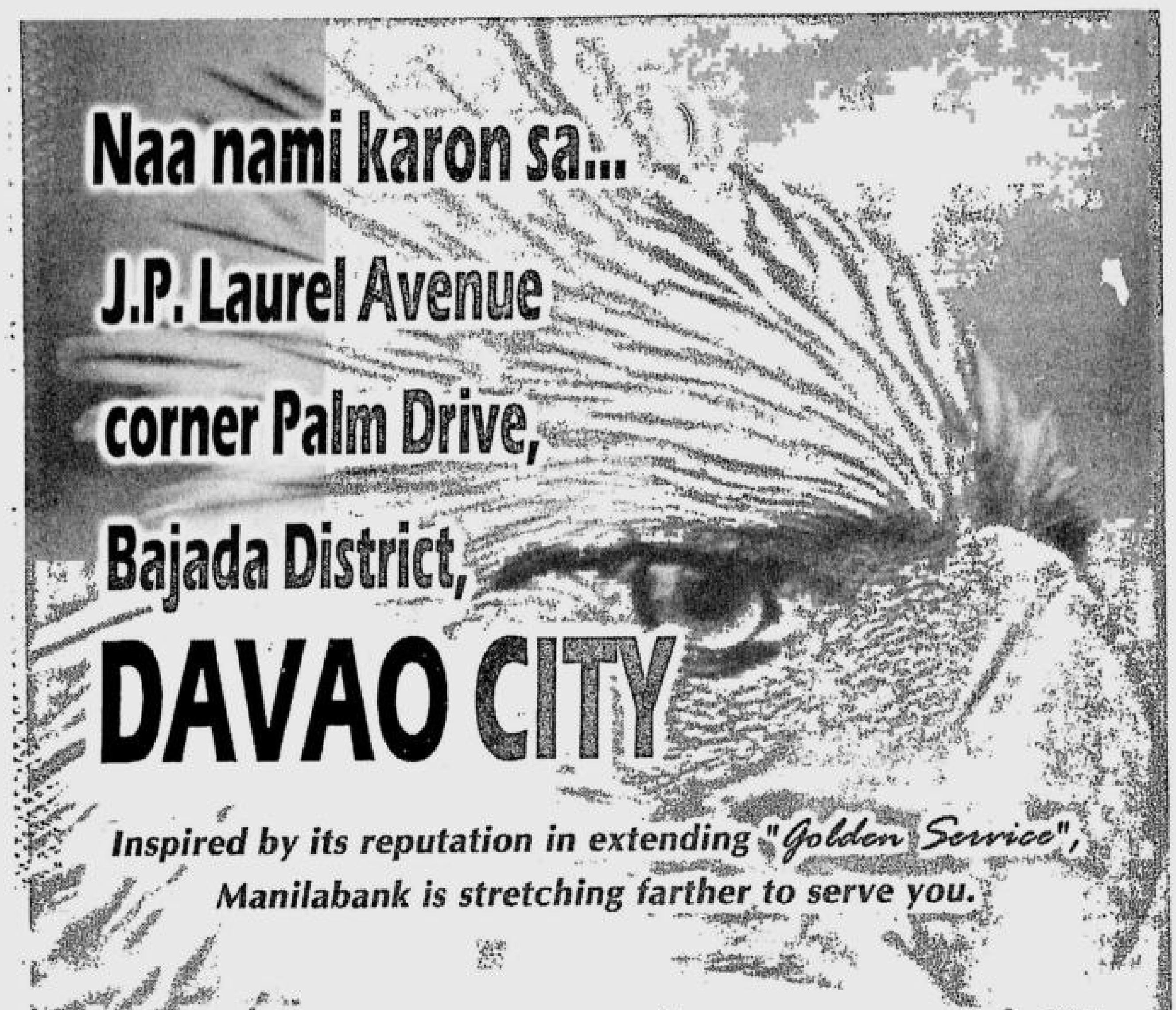

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SCHEDULE OF FREE NEW TECHNOLOGY SEMINARS
SEMINAR ROOM 1

NOV. 6 (WEDNESDAY)
2:15 - 3:15pm Panasonic Industrial Motor Seminar by: Panasonic Industrial Sales
3:30 - 4:30pm Introduction to LEICA's New Products by: Maedan Enterprises

NOV. 7 (THURSDAY)
10:30 - 11:30am Getting Your Message Across- The Sony Style by: Solid Video
1:00 - 2:00pm PCB Prototyping Machine & PC Scope by: Hakko Philippines
2:15 - 3:15pm Various Products Demo & New Techniques by: Loctite
3:30 - 4:30pm Lead Inspection System by: Benchmark Systems

NOV. 8 (FRIDAY)
10:30 - 11:30am Customized Turnkey Automation Capabilities @ LM Tech (Phil) (a joint venture between the LIONAPEX Group & MARUGO Industries Ltd.) by: L&M Tech - Lionapex
1:00 - 2:00pm ESD Market Trends by: ESD Advanced Technology Corp.
2:15 - 3:15pm Leadfree Finish of Semiconductor Components by:Greenchemicals Corp.
3:30 - 4:30pm Surge Suppression Transformers by: Cebu Sarah Inc.- Digital Network Inc.

NOV. 9 (SATURDAY)
1:00 - 2:00pm Company Profile and Product Introduction by:Nupon Technology
2:15 - 3:15pm Omron Mechatronics of the Philippines Company Profile and Product Presentation by: Omron Mechatronics of the Philippines
3:30 - 4:30pm Flow Injection Analysis for Environmental Monitoring by: Philab Industries

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NOV. 6 (WEDNESDAY)
1:00 - 5:00pm Working Towards Environment Friendly Maintenance Technology (Topics on Air Compressors, Facilities Engineering, Pumps, Electric Motors, Oil & Lubricants, Bearing & Eco-Friendly Refrigerants)

SCHEDULE OF FREE NEW TECHNOLOGY SEMINARS
SEMINAR ROOM 2

NOV. 6 (WEDNESDAY)
2:15 - 3:15pm Manufacturing Test Solutions by: Agilent Technologies
3:30 - 4:30pm Solder Paste Technology for BGA Packages by: Elitech Corporation

NOV. 7 (THURSDAY)
2:15 - 3:15pm Integrated Solid/ Hazardous Waste Management by: PAE Environmental Company
3:30 - 4:30pm Advances in ESD Control, Process Solutions and Cleaning Systems by: Hugle Technologies

NOV. 8 (FRIDAY)
10:30 - 11:30am Innovative System for Manufacturing Processes by: Digi-Software
1:00 - 2:00pm Establishing Competitive Advantage before your competitors do by: Global Implementation Services
2:15 - 3:15pm New Technology from Edgeworth by: Edgeworth Corporation
3:30 - 4:30pm Innovations in X-ray Technology from Phoenix by: SEMATEQ Inc.

NOV. 9 (SATURDAY)
10:30 - 11:30am Industrial Control Valves & Automation by: Tytrade Internationl Corporation
3:30 - 4:30pm Industrial Control Valves & Automation by: Claval U.S.A.

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NTC probes paging closure

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission has ordered an investigation on Easycall's (ECPI) reported arbitrary closure even without notice or any consultation with the commission and their subscribers. ECPI is a leading provider of paging services.

Earlier reports said ECPI would shut down all its paging sites, and cease operating its paging services. They will instead concentrate in other business areas like Internet, call centers and data center services.

But according to the NTC, the ECPI decision to shut down the sites did not mention any prior approval or authority from the NTC. At present, the unilateral closure of the paging sites without prior consultation with the proper government agencies is also the subject of a pending investigation by the NTC.

Despite the pending NTC investigation, however, ECPI has announced that it would shut down the Manila and Cebu sites effective Nov. 30.

Canada trade group arriving Monday

A CANADIAN delegation is set to arrive in Manila on Monday, Oct. 28, to begin a three-week trade mission aimed at fostering new trade and business relationships between companies from both countries.

Members of the Rizal Media Corp., a communications company based in Winnipeg, Manitoba, head the group. Along with publishing, visual media, and music production departments, Rizal also boasts a division dedicated to spurring international trade. Rizal CEO Robert Kives says the purpose of the company's visit is to stimulate the exchange of information—and hopefully, products and services—between enterprises in the Philippines and those in Canada.

"I am nearly overwhelmed when I consider the possibilities a trip like this will uncover," says Kives. "The partnerships that can be forged between progressive manufacturers, suppliers and exporters here in the Philippines, and global-thinking companies from Manitoba and Canada, are limitless."

Among those agencies and organizations Kives and his group plan to visit include: the Canadian Embassy's Commercial Section, the International Coffee Organization Certifying Agency, the Department of Trade and Industry, the Bureau of Export Trade Promotion, the Philippine-Canadian Business Council, and numerous Philippine buyers, manufacturers and suppliers.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, October 25, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18	18	18	18	10,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	41	41.5	41	41.5	328,800
China Banking Corp.	615	615	615	615	1,460
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	27	27.5	27	27	297,400
First E-Bank Corp.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	80,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30.5	31.5	30.5	30.5	146,600
Philippine National Bank	23	24	23	24	18,300
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	10	10	10	10	4,000
Security Bank Corp.	11.5	12	11.5	12	8,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	12,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	20,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1220	1220	1215	1215	480
Sun Life Financial Serv.	970	980	970	980	5,690
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	17.5	17.5	17	17	1,900
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.38	0.42	0.38	0.42	1,150,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	402.5	402.5	397.5	397.5	66,930
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.025	0.026	0.025	0.025	1,600,000
ISM Communications Corp..	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	2,800,000
Piltel	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	770,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	224	224	219	220	223,020
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15	17	15	17	24,800
Manila Electric Co. B	22.75	22.75	22	22.25	460,300
Petron Corp.	1.36	1.4	1.36	1.38	544,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.88	1.88	1.88	1.88	10,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	70,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.16	2.16	2.16	2.16	451,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	40,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.25	3.25	3.2	3.25	99,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	12,800
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	32	32	32	32	6,000
RFM Corp..	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	120,000
San Miguel Corp. A	56	56.5	56	56	742,500
San Miguel Corp. B	59.5	60.5	59.5	60.5	143,800
Universal Robina Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	60,851,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	90,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4,333,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.2	2.26	2.2	2.26	24,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	10,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	2,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.48	2.48	2.48	2.48	5,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.09	0.12	0.09	0.12	70,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	20,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	500,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.18	0.185	0.18	0.185	2,770,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.12	0.15	0.1	0.14	810,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	10,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	20,700
Ionics Inc.	2.36	2.36	2.2	2.2	118,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	50,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	20,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	360,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.17	0.17	0.165	0.165	6,000,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.195	0.205	0.195	0.2	2,020,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.74	0.74	0.73	0.73	50,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	420,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	2.75	2.75	2.5	2.5	4,527,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	1,300,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	20,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	5,000
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.6	160,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.7	1.72	1.6	1.6	95,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.73	0.74	0.73	0.74	100,000
Pryce Corp.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	1,000,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	2,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	410,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	190,000
Philippine Racing Club	5	5	5	5	1,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	17	17	17	17	845,600
Jollibee Warrants	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10	10	10	10	1,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5	5.1	5	5.1	14,886,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2	2	2	2	100,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.1	0.1	7,080,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.14	0.15	0.14	0.15	360,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.95	0.96	4,800,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	500,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	290,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	85,419,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.034	0.034	0.034	0.034	300,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	300,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.1	1,982,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	20,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	200,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.18	0.2	0.18	0.2	190,000
Omico Corp.	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	1,000,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	1,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	7,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0024	0.0036	0.0024	0.0036	35,000,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	1,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	700,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.36	40,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.23	0.24	0.23	0.24	100,000

DISCLOSURES

RFM Corp., through its CEO Jose Ma. Concepcion III or its COO Felicisimo Nacino Jr., shall negotiate with ATR-Kim-Eng Capital·Partners Inc. for the sale of its entire or part of its shares of stock in Philstar.com. Inc.

* * *

KEPPEL Philippines Marine Inc. has announced the resignation of Teo Soon Hoe and Ramon Abejuela as directors. Elected to replace them were Wong Ngiam Jih and Mayo Jose Ongsingco. Appointed compliance officer was Agnes Barbara Lorenzo.

* * *

FILIPINO Fund Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 26, 3 p.m. at the Turf Room, Manila Polo Club. Only stockholders as of Oct. 10 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

METROPOLITAN Bank & Trust Co. has announced the appointment of Angelica Hernandez as senior vice president of the bank effective Jan. 2, 2003.

* * *

INTERPHIL Laboratories Inc. bought 36,000 of its shares at P1.61 each and another 22,000 of its "B" shares at P1.54 per share.

* * *

FIL-ESTATE Land Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 15 with record date on Oct. 15.

* * *

SOLID Group Inc. bought a total of 2.1 million of its own shares at prices ranging from P0.27 to P0.32 each.

* * *

KUOK Philippine Properties Inc. has denied having any information that could explain the 40-percent decrease in its share price that fell from P0.05 to P0.03. Also, the company's head office will transfer from Makati City to Mandaluyong City.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

Oct. 25, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.022390	1.000000	53.0310
Japan	Yen	0.008218	0.008038	0.4263
United Kingdom	Pound	1.589817	1.555000	82.4632
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.131096	0.128225	6.7999
Switzerland	Franc	0.681412	0.666489	35.3446
Canada	Dollar	0.653159	0.638855	33.8791
Singapore	Dollar	0.574118	0.561545	29.7793
Australia	Dollar	0.568026	0.555586	29.4633
Bahrain	Dinar	2.712631	2.653224	140.7031
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.272622	0.266652	14.1408
Brunei	Dollar	0.572191	0.559660	29.6793
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000111	0.000109	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.023476	0.022962	1.2177
UAE	Dirham	0.278375	0.272279	14.4392
Korea	Won	0.000836	0.000818	0.0434
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.978100	51.8696
Argentina	Real	0.283998	0.277778	14.7308
Brazil	Real	0.263570	0.257798	13.6713
Denmark	Kroner	0.134554	0.131607	6.9793
India	Rupee	0.021158	0.020695	1.0975
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.269086	0.263193	13.9574
Mexico	New Peso	0.102572	0.100326	5.3204
New Zealand	Dollar	0.496982	0.486098	25.7783
Norway	Kroner	0.135429	0.132463	7.0246
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017402	0.017021	0.9026
South Africa	Rand	0.101197	0.098981	5.2491
Sweden	Kroner	0.109570	0.107170	5.6833
Syria	Pound	0.023131	0.022624	1.1998
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.029463	0.028818	1.5282
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000715	0.000699	0.0371

Manufacturing output slumped 12% in August

By Doris C. Dumlao

MANUFACTURING output shrank 12 percent in August from a year earlier, dampening expectations of a sustained industrial rebound that would help fuel the economy for the rest of the year.

The National Statistics Office (NSO) also reported yesterday that manufacturing output actually declined by 3.6 percent in July, revising its earlier announcement that output rose 6.4 percent in that month.

Petroleum products posted the highest decrease of the sectors, falling 35.9 percent in August, with non-electrical machinery suffering the second largest fall of 28.1 percent, the NSO said in a statement.

Basic metals, paper and paper products, chemical products and wood and wood products all suffered double-digit declines in output in August.

Among the few sectors that posted increases in output were leather products, which grew 30.5 percent, and textiles, which rose 27.3 percent in August.

Aggregate capacity use for 500 sample factories stood at 74.9 percent in August from a revised 74.1 percent in July, the office said.

Lourdes Homecillo, a statistician of the NSO, said that affected firms reported that "there is low demand for their products in the domestic market and the world market." Even in the key electronics sector, the country's largest exporter, there were reports of some companies closing down in August, she added.

The manufacturing sector accounts for about 21 percent of the country's gross domestic product as well as for the bulk of the country's exports, a key linchpin for the economy.

Analysts said the sharper decline in August, which marked the fourth consecutive month of a slowdown, could threaten the country's economic growth prospects for the year.

AB Capital Securities economist Jose Vistan said the figures indicated that demand for manufactured goods, most of which were export-oriented, slackened after the first semester of the year.

"There wasn't enough momentum in the economy of our trading partners to sustain a rebound from their bouts of recession," Vistan said.

He explained that the four-month contraction based on revised comparative figures released by the NSO was worrisome but not entirely surprising since the United States, the world's biggest economy, had started to indicate faltering growth since June.

"Manufacturing encompasses employment, exports, banking and interacts with many components of the economy," Vistan said.

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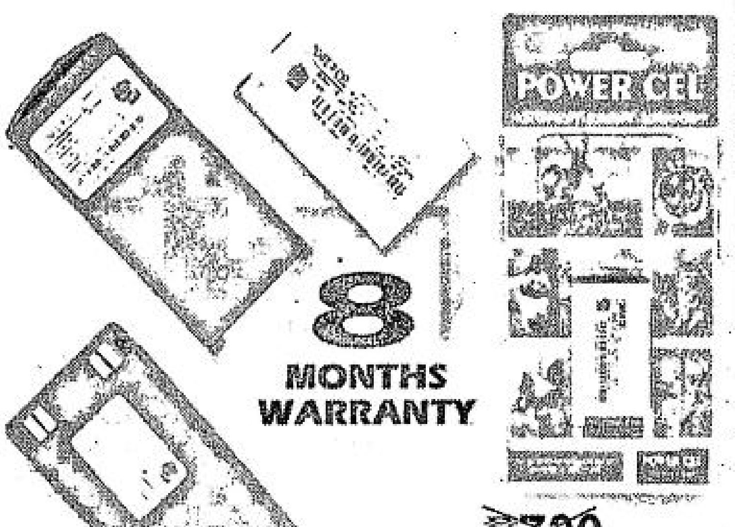

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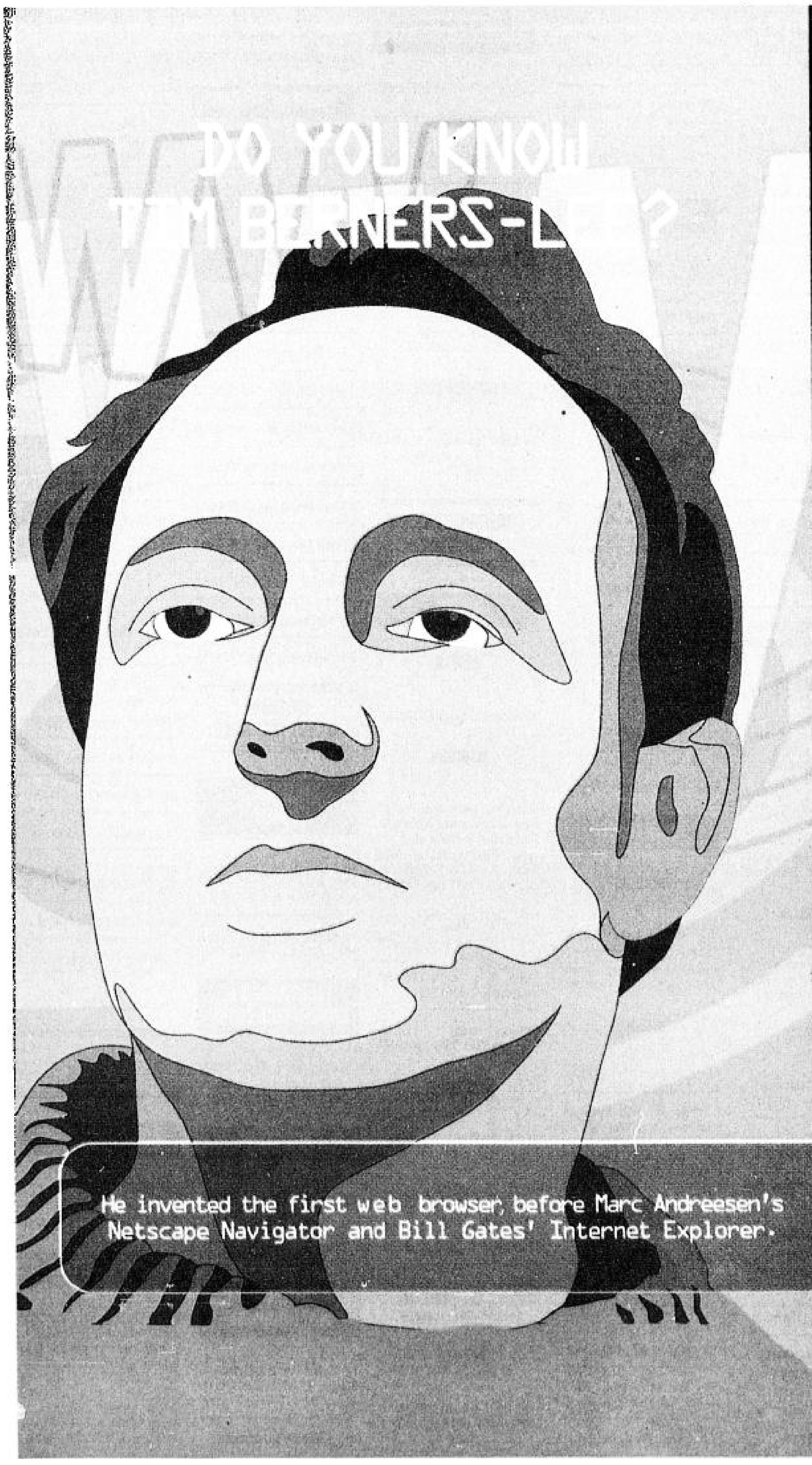
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LA-346m² 3br 3tb Near Antipolo Church Call 6341212

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Taft Avenue Near La Salle 1.4M FF 1BR 0919-6781363

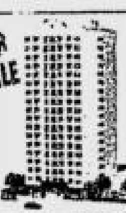
MANDALUYONG

Boni Thse 2BR2TB1CG Grt lctn nuly rnvtd c2oarcle 5322535 / 09178963522

CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY

FOR SALE



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MAKATI

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2T 2rm West Frview6459934

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QUEZON CITY

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Proj8 New P7.5T grge 9292267

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96Besta 145T 7317984
99Pregio 345T 7317984/6550

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NISSAN

97 SENTRA SS 268T 7317984

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2% w/o Taking Car 8870490/95

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B/SELL EDUCL PLAN 8061574

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OFC Staff 09202550298 Ruda

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Wanted DENTISTS 9162923

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

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Join Phil Tax Mktg 456-8634

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of late RUBEN A. SISON was extrajudicially settled among his heirs per Doc. No. 438 Page No. 84 Book VII Series of 2002 before Notary Public Al Harith D. Sali of Quezon City (PDI-Oct.26,Nov.2&9,2002)

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

Nuestra-Damus Pawnshop
Makati City

Auction Sale on **November 7, 2002** all unredeemed pledges during the month of June 1-30, 2002. Nuestra Br. II Pio-9:30am; Nuestra Br. I 10:30am; Damus Pasong Tamo-12:30pm; Nuestra Main -1:30pm; Nuestra Br. IX Zapote 3:00pm.

Sons of J. Lanuza Auctioneer

NUESTRA-DIAJADE PAWNSHOP
LAS PINAS METRO MANILA

Will have its auction sale on November 08, 2002. All unredeemed pledges during the month of June 1-30, 2002. Diajade Main-9:30am; Diajade Br. II-10:30am; Diajade Br. I-1:00pm; Nuestra Almanza 2:00pm.

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LOOKING FOR ROGER MARQUEZ

I am trying to contact Roger Marquez, born in Masbate in the town of Batuan. Roger was a merchant seaman. If he reads this, or if anyone is aware of his whereabouts please contact Arcell Burton at the following address

G.S.P.M.
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CyberSolutions Services, a newly established Information Technology Consultant company in Brunei Darussalam is in need of

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Contact Person	Miss Amal Ibrahim
E-mail	amal@css.com.bn
Fax	+673-2-447847
Phone	+673-2-453306, +673-2-451975

Applicants who have not submitted the above required items would not be entertained. Qualified applicants will be short-listed and will be notified to attend the interview sessions on the following dates & time:

Date	31st October - 2nd November 2002
Time	9.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. & 2.00 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.
Venue	Inter-Continental Hotel Makati, Philippines (Business Centre)
What to Bring	Copies of Academic Attainment, Personal Information including passport-sized photograph

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NOTICE

KUOK PHILIPPINE PROPERTIES, INC., its subsidiaries and affiliates hereby announces that it will soon be transferring its head offices from Makati City to Mandaluyong City. Thus, the clients, as well as the business and professional partners of said companies, are hereby notified that effective 29 October 2002, its mailing address shall be at:

5th Level, Shangri-La Plaza
EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard,
Mandaluyong City

The following subsidiaries and affiliated companies will be transferring to the new office location:

Makati Shangri-La Hotel & Resort, Inc.
Edsa Shangri-La Hotel & Resort, Inc.
KPPI Land Corporation
KPPI Realty Corporation
KPPI Management and Services Corporation
Kerry Philippines, Inc.
Brown Swallow Development Corporation
Clavall Properties, Inc.
Green Mangrove Realty, Inc.
Ideal Sites and Properties, Inc.
Mactan Beachfront Resources, Inc.
Martin B. Properties, Inc.
New Contour Realty, Inc.

(PDI - Oct. 26. 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM
Foreign-Assisted Projects Office (FAPsO)
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Northern Mindanao Community Initiative and Resource Management Project

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) is pleased to announce the vacancies for the following positions in the Project Facilitation Office (PFO) based in Butuan City of the **"Northern Mindanao Community Initiative and Resource Management Project (NMCIREMP)"** with funding assistance from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD):

1. FINANCE OFFICER

Qualifications:
☐ At least 7 years experience in financial management of projects or businesses with similar funding budgets and staff complement to the Project in the public, private or NGO sectors;
☐ A CPA or masters degree in related subject/course with knowledge and experience in government budget and accounting systems, financial control/monitoring and audit;
☐ Has working knowledge and experience in government relating to management information systems, personnel management and other administrative systems;
☐ Must be computer literate; and
☐ Preferably Mindanao resident.

2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/GENDER SPECIALIST

Qualifications:
☐ At least 7 years practical experience in economic-oriented activities for the community development component of the project;
☐ Minimum of two years managerial work, preferably with some exposure in other countries and/or alternative community animation and mobilization methodologies;
☐ Degree holder or relevant course; holders of master's degree in relevant course, an advantage;
☐ Must be willing to spend considerable time in travel and temporary residence in the field;
☐ Knowledge in computer operation an advantage; and
☐ Preferably resident of Mindanao.

Terms of Reference (TOR) for each position are available at the Foreign-Assisted Projects Office (FAPsO), 1st Floor FAPsO Building, DAR Compound, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Successful candidates may be hired on a contractual basis, renewable annually; or under secondment/detail arrangement for government personnel.

Application letters and corresponding resume should be sent/submitted to:

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Foreign-Assisted Projects Office
Department of Agrarian Reform
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

Deadline for applications is (November 11, 2002). For inquiries, please contact Susan Perez or Andrew Gonzales at telephone numbers (02) 927-0752 or 453-3633.

October 26 & Nov. 2, 2002 – Inquirer

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 90, QUEZON CITY

IN THE MATTER OF: PETITION FOR
CORPORATE REHABILITATION WITH
PRAYER FOR SUSPENSION OF PAYMENTS.

RAMCAR, INC., ORIENTAL & MOTOLITE CORP., ET AL., — SPEC. PROC. NO. Q-01-45804
Principal Petitioners,
-and-
AMALGAMATED BATTERY COMPONENTS, INC. ET AL.,
Affiliate Petitioners.
x-------------------------------------x

ORDER

In the interest of justice, set the Rehabilitation Receiver's evaluation report for hearing on October 28, 2002 at 2:30 p.m. and October 31, 2002 at 2:00 p.m.

Serve copies of this Order upon the Rehabilitation Receiver, petitioners, and all counsels and/or all other interested parties.

The petitioners/Rehabilitation Receiver are ordered to cause the publication of this Order in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Manila Bulletin, and other newspaper/s of general circulation in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao on October 26, 2002 (Saturday) in the business section of said newspapers.

SO ORDERED.
Quezon City, October 10, 2002.

(Sgd.) REYNALDO B. DAWAY
Presiding Judge

(PDI - Oct. 26, 2002)

POEA 24-HR HOTLINES 722-1144 722-1155

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION
2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City
Telefax 813-4692; Website www.pdic.gov.ph
Email: bacsecretariat@pdic.gov.ph

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) invites all authorized manufacturers, distributors, dealers and suppliers of file servers and tape library system to bid for the following:

	Item	Qty.
I.	FILE SERVERS (WITH BUNDLED SOFTWARE)	5
	Total Budget in Philippine Pesos	**5,100,000.00**
II.	TAPE LIBRARY SYSTEM	1
	Total Budget in Philippine Pesos	**1,860,000.00**

The Request for Proposal shall be made available to interested bidders starting **November 4-11, 2002,** 8:00am to 5:00pm at the 3rd Floor, Information Technology Department, 2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City from Ms. Jackie Jose or Ms. Maricel Flores. The prebid conference shall be held at the PDIC Building, 2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City on **November 14, 2002** at 2:00 pm to clarify/explain any provision stipulated in the Request for Proposal.

Criteria for eligibility check, examination and evaluation of bids and postqualification shall be on non-discretionary pass/fail basis. Only eligible bidders shall be considered for bid awards. Bidders whose Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC) based on the net working capital is less than the approved budget shall be disqualified. NFCC shall be computed based on the following formula:

NFCC = [(current assets – current liabilities) x 10] – value of all outstanding or on-going contracts and contracts awarded yet to be started

PDIC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

PDIC shall in no case be held responsible or liable for any and all costs associated with the bidder's participation in the bidding process regardless of its results.

(Sgd.) **CATHERINE F. BAMBA**
Chairman

(PDI - Oct 26 & Nov 2, 2002)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

ARNULFO (Boy) S. ALCARAZ

This is to inform the general public that MR. ARNULFO (Boy) S. ALCARAZ of 7215 San Mateo St., Brgy. Olympia, Makati City, whose picture appears at left is no longer connected with Electro Word-Processing Systems, Inc. effective October 10, 2002. Any and all transactions entered into by him for and/or behalf of the company after said date shall not be honored.

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang** ◎ *Assistant Editor* **Stella O. Gonzales**

Are you a candidate for osteoporosis?

By Pennie Azarcon-Dela Cruz

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

NO bones about it, if you're a petite and elderly woman who smokes, drinks too much coffee, cola or alcohol and is averse to milk and exercise, you could literally break a leg.

The TV commercials on osteoporosis are scary enough: pictures showing one's vertebra collapsing like blocks, or of one's carefully cultivated posture caving into a dowager's hump, or being immobilized on a wheelchair after a fall.

Like other Asians, Filipino women are especially susceptible to low bone mass density because we are generally small-boned and lactose-intolerant. Drinking milk often results in an upset stomach so we lose out on this rich source of calcium, a lack that leads to bone fragility and an increased risk of fractures.

During a forum on women's health sponsored by Merck, Sharp and Dohme Philippines, rheumatologist Dr. Sandra Tankeh-Torres spoke on the risk factors associated with osteoporosis and how to manage this disease to improve one's quality of life even in old age.

Risk factors

Among nonmodifiable risk factors for osteoporosis are:

- A history of fractures as an adult
- A history of fractures in first-degree relatives
- Advanced age
- Being female
- Being Asian or Caucasian
- Dementia
- Poor health or frailty

Potentially modifiable risk factors include:

- Cigarette smoking
- Low body weight (less than 127 lbs.)
- Estrogen deficiency
- Prolonged pre-menopausal amenorrhea
- Low calcium intake
- Alcoholism
- Impaired eyesight despite adequate correction
- Recurrent falls
- Inadequate physical activity

For those who have one or more risk factors, Torres recommends a bone mass density (BMD) screening. A BMD is also indicated for women 65 years or older, postmenopausal women who have fractures, those who have been on hormone replacement therapy for prolonged periods and those who are considering therapy for osteoporosis.

Fortunately, the disease can be managed quite easily, according to Torres, president of the Philippine Rheumatology Association and head of the rheumatology section of the Cardinal Santos Medical Center.

1,200 mg of calcium

Taking calcium supplements helps, she said. A woman needs at least 1,200 mg of dietary calcium a day, with 400-800 IU of Vitamin D for better absorption.

But there are several kinds of calcium supplements in the market, she cautioned.

"Calcium carbonate requires gastric acidity to be dissolved and carries a higher risk of developing kidney stones. Calcium citrate, which can be digested under all gastric conditions, is more protective against kidney stones," she said.

"You should also calculate your intake based on the amount of elemental calcium per tablet," she added.

Constipation resulting from high calcium intake can be reduced by taking 500 mg of magnesium a day and by taking the calcium supplement during meals.

Calcium-rich foods include dairy products (four glasses of milk a day should do it), canned fish (with the bones), tofu, nuts, orange juice and leafy green vegetables such as *saluyot*, broccoli and *malunggay*.

"The only problem with these vegetables is the massive amount you have to eat to approximate the calcium supplement you need each day. It's good for primary prevention, that is, if you can start the habit of eating vegetables early on in childhood. Otherwise, calcium tablets are more convenient," the doctor noted.

Regular weight-bearing exercises, such as brisk walking and jogging, also strengthen the muscles that carry our weight, thus reducing the risk of falls and fractures, the doctor said.

Hormone therapy

Menopausal women can also take hormone supplements, "but only if they're not at high risk for cancer, which means that no first degree relative has had breast or uterus cancer," said Torres.

If a woman is also suffering from the symptoms of menopause like hot flushes, night sweats, irritability and so on, she can take estrogen but only for three to four years. Otherwise, she is at risk for cancer and heart disease.

Better alternatives, the doctor suggested, are medications like bisphosphonates (alendronate), selective estrogen receptor modulators or calcitonin.

Of course, nothing beats a healthy lifestyle.

"Stop smoking, limit your alcohol intake and indulge in regular physical activity," she said.

Smoking, she said, "has been found to be toxic to the bone, because it speeds up the metabolism of estrogen which is needed for bone maintenance. Smokers also tend to weigh less or to lose weight rapidly. Some women smokers go through early menopause, which means further loss of estrogen."

One need not be a heavy smoker to be at risk, reminds the doctor. "The danger zone is two or more packs a week for six months or longer."

Alcohol's effect on bones

Just as insidious is drinking alcohol because it has a toxic effect on the bones.

"Alcohol is believed to alter the metabolism of Vitamin D which helps in the absorption of calcium. Alcoholics also tend to be poorly nourished and thus have a low body weight, another risk factor for osteoporosis," Torres said.

And while there are no scientific studies to prove it, people who drink heavily are observably more prone to falling because they lose their balance when inebriated, she added.

Limit caffeine intake

The intake of coffee, tea and cola should be regulated.

Caffeine is a diuretic that increases urination which, in turn, results in increases excretion of calcium. Coffee is also known to decrease the absorption of calcium.

"The problem is that coffee-drinking has been elevated into a matter of style, made glamorous even among the young by all these trendy coffee shops," the doctor noted.

One should limit caffeine intake to 300 mg a day—or roughly two cups of coffee or five cups of tea or two cans of cola.

There's no limit for decaf products, said the doctor, adding that even normal caffeine intake can be modified to limit the risk.

"For every cup of coffee, put one or two tablespoons of milk for calcium," she suggested.

Healthy habits, Torres stressed, should start early.

"Primary prevention of osteoporosis begins in adolescence," she said. Adequate calcium intake builds up bone mass early on and this helps preserve bone density even during menopause.

Millions crippled by bone disease

By Tessa R. Salazar

OSTEOPOROSIS affects 75 million people worldwide. The American Journal of Medicine in 1991 reported that a third of women over 60 and two-thirds of women over 80 suffer from varying degrees of osteoporosis.

Dr. Sandra T. Torres cited a study of Melton LJ which revealed that 20 to 25 percent of women over 50 years had one or more vertebral fractures.

By 2050, 2.5 million Asian women would most likely have hip fractures. The alarming situation is compounded by the increasing number of elderly population in the region and low-calcium Asian diets.

A 10-year survey by Dr. Delfin Tan at the National Orthopedic Center showed that 22,580 hip fractures were noted in Filipino postmenopausal women who suffered osteoporosis.

The number will be much bigger if you multiply that figure with the number of major hospitals in the country, said Torres.

"Once you have a fracture, there's a higher risk of developing osteoporotic fractures unless you intervene," she said.

Torres, who was invited by Merck Sharp and Dohme Philippines to share her knowledge with INQUIRER employees last Tuesday, described osteoporosis as the most common human bone disease. It is characterized by low bone mass and microarchitectural deterioration of bone tissue. The disease leads to bone fragility and increased risk of fracture.

Osteoporosis is generally asymptomatic. It has no early warning symptoms. It, however, relies on the presence of risk factors that are either modifiable or nonmodifiable.

Researchers find new compound to fight osteoporosis

WASHINGTON—Researchers have found a compound that works like estrogen to prevent brittle bone disease in mice, but with none of the hormone's side effects.

The discovery may offer an alternative to older women who have stopped hormone replacement therapy because of the risks of cancer and heart disease.

Experiments found that the synthetic compound, called estren, increased bone density and strength in mice that had been surgically altered to mimic menopause, but the chemical had none of the dangerous side effects of estrogen.

"This seems to be superior to estrogen in its effect on the bone, but it has no effect on the sex organs," said Dr. Stavros C. Manolagas, a researcher at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and the Central Arkansas Veterans Health Care System.

Experts on osteoporosis said that if estren is found to work as well in humans it could substitute for the hormone replacement therapy, or HRT, that has been used to maintain bone health in women after menopause.

Millions of women regularly take hormone supplements to treat postmenopausal symptoms, including hot flashes and the thinning of the bones. But in July, US federal scientists abruptly ended a study of the combination of estrogen and progestin, after finding evidence that long-term use increased the risk of breast cancer, strokes and heart attacks.

Jill L. Carrington of the National Institute on Aging, part of the National Institutes of Health, said Manolagas' research is important because he has demonstrated that there are compounds that can safely replace estrogen hormone therapy for treating the loss of bone density.

"This opens up a new direction for the treatment of osteoporosis with drugs that can be designed to take advantage of the best effect of estrogen without adding some of the harmful effects," said Carrington.

She said estren still has a long way to go before it's ready for humans but Manolagas' "approach was very promising."

"The fact that he was able to demonstrate an increase in bone density in live animals is very exciting." *AP*

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Experts say too much MSG can cause blindness

EATING too much monosodium glutamate (MSG) could make you go blind, according to research reported in the New Scientist.

Rats fed on diets high in MSG suffered vision loss and a thinner retina, the layer of light-sensitive cells on the rear wall of the eyeball, according to a study led by Hiroshi Ohguro of the Hirosaki University.

His team fed rats three different diets for six months that contained either high levels of MSG, moderate levels or none.

"Among rats on the high-MSG diet, some retinal nerve layers thinned by as much as 75 percent. And tests that measured retinal response to light showed they couldn't see as well.

"Rats on the moderate diet also had damage, although on a lesser extent," the British weekly said.

MSG is an amino acid that acts as a neurotransmitter—a chemical that helps send signals among brain cells.

Previous studies have shown that when MSG is injected directly into the eye, it can cause nerve damage. But Ohguro's study, said New Scientist, is the first to show that it can have this effect through food that contains MSG.

The high-level MSG diet comprised 20 percent of the flavor booster, which according to Ohguro is large.

"Lesser amounts should be Okay, but the precise borderline amount is still unknown," he was quoted as saying.

Ohguro said his findings, which were reported in the journal Experimental Eye Research, could explain why there is a high rate of normal-tension glaucoma in eastern Asia but it could also be due to genetics. This is a sight-threatening illness that does not have the telltale buildup of pressure in the eyeball normally associated with glaucoma.

Peng Tee Khaw, a glaucoma specialist at London's Moorfields Eye Hospital, said Ohguro's concerns were credible.

The amount of MSG in the highest diet is "a lot, lot higher than you'd eat. But if you're a sodium glutamate junky, then you could potentially run into problems with your retina," Peng said.

Lower dietary intakes of MSG could have an accumulative effect over decades, which would explain why people tend not to develop normal-tension glaucoma until they are in their 40s. *AFP, Reuters*

No more tears onions

DISCOVER

Massie K. Santos

GENETIC engineering has become the ultimate answer to problems, human and agricultural, it seems.

Diseases and genetic conditions are being studied so they can be reversed and people like Christopher Reeve can walk again. Crops like corn, rice and tomatoes are being treated to make them less susceptible to various blights and to make them produce more food to feed an ever-increasing global population.

So making onions tear-free should be a comparatively easy problem to fix, right?

Not quite.

Scientists who had originally looked at the problem found that an enzyme called alliinase reacted with an enzyme called Prencso to release the sulfuric compounds that cause people to cry.

Alliinase is a sulfur-containing compound that is also found in garlic. This is the enzyme that makes garlic and onions taste as good as they do. If it were removed, tear-free but tasteless onions would be glutting the market, which would benefit no one.

It seems people will just have to buy white or yellow sweet onions and keep tissues handy when slicing the red ones.

Just over a week ago, a team of Japanese scientists announced that there was a third enzyme that caused tears, but it didn't play a role in determining the flavor of the onion.

Mouth watering

Ask any chef—better yet, ask anyone who appreciates a good meal—and they'll tell you that good food not only tastes good, it looks and smells good, too. There's just something about the smell of chopped garlic and onions sautéing that's mouth watering.

Unfortunately, very few things in life come without strings attached, and onions are not one of them. The counterpart in cooking of the exercise motto "No pain, no gain" is "No tears, no treats."

If manliness is measured by a man's ability to be strong and stoic at all times, then men who cook could be considered wimps. (Note to the males who are comfortable in the kitchen: I don't believe in that idea; I happen to appreciate good food and I don't want to risk the chance of eating well in the future.)

The culprit is the onion, which defends itself from the threat of being cut up by releasing sulfuric compounds that make people cry. Unfortunately for the tasty vegetable, once people have dried their eyes, they resume chopping anyway.

Cutting without crying

There must be at least a hundred different "fool-proof" methods for cutting onions without crying.

Some people keep a lighted candle near the chopping board (which is good only if the candle is kept far away from anything flammable). Others place an unlit match between their lips as they wield the knife. Still others wear goggles, keep pieces of bread, potatoes or lemons nearby to absorb the tear-causing compounds. And some either freeze or heat the onion prior to cutting it.

Short of being immune to tearing though—and I don't think I've ever met anyone who can claim that distinction—the best solution so far is the idea of genetically engineering onions to make them tear-free.

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Tear-free for good

The research group of Imai et al., some of them affiliated with House Foods Corp. (which explains their interest in this topic), made a brief announcement in Nature magazine saying that after eight years of research, they had found a third enzyme involved in the reaction, which was actually responsible for the tears and which didn't play a role in determining the onion's flavor.

Identified as the lachrymatory-factor synthase, the enzyme, when combined with alliinase and Prencso, was found to make people cry. The group was then able to identify the gene which controls the enzyme's levels. This means they can now spend the next several years figuring out how to make the onion tear-free for good.

This from the country that figured out how to grow square watermelons for easier stocking. I have complete faith that they'll be able to make an onion that tastes just as good without the tears.

Allogenic stem cell transplant patients get new hope

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

AFTER ENDURING the scarcity of facilities and expertise, patients can now see a glint of hope as Asian Hospital and Medical Center (AHMC) makes allogenic stem cell transplant procedure available to Filipinos, using the latest innovations and technology accepted in leading hospitals abroad.

The need to have such a critical procedure readily available in the country prompted Dr. Francisco Vicente F. Lopez to offer his expertise in the field together with AHMC pediatric hematology section head Dr. Rosalio Torres, pediatric hematologist Dr. Allan Racho and AHMC pathology department chair Dr. Ma. Teresa Chan-Castillo. Dr. Lopez himself has extensive background in bone marrow transplantation, having trained at the City of Hope National Medical Center in Duarte, California.

Sharing knowledge

"It's high time to share with our fellowmen what we have learned abroad," states Dr. Lopez. "And in a world-class medical facility such as AHMC, where we have the necessary equipment, we can all better serve patients who need to undergo the procedure."

According to Dr. Lopez, the object of an allogenic transplant is to destroy the malfunctioning bone marrow due to blood disorders and make room for healthy stem cells. Stem cells are immature progenitor cells that promote the production of blood cells.

More aggressive treatment

An allogenic stem cell transplant involves a brother or a sister who share the same genetic type as the patient. Dr. Castillo and her staff in AHMC's pathology department closely monitor the harvesting stage of stem cells. "We are basically in-charge of the processing and screening of possible donor," she says, "as well as the storing and preparation of harvested stem cells."

A conditioning regimen ensues prior to the infusion of the new stem cells. An intensive myeloblative regimen makes use of high-dose chemotherapy with or without radiation therapy to ablate or wipe out the defective marrow.

Nonmyeloblative regimen, on the other hand, uses minimal chemotherapy and radiation therapy and suppresses rather than ablates the patient's immune system so that the donor stem cells are not rejected. These approaches are best used for patients whose disease status is in remission.

Tremendous commitment

Dr. Lopez also says that bone marrow transplantation requires tremendous commitment on the part of the patient and his family.

"A patient spends a great deal of time in the hospital and there are a lot of post-transplant medications that need to be strictly followed," he relates. "The full cooperation of the patient coupled with encouragement from his family will surely help in his or her condition. We also provide guidelines for patients and his family and for caregivers alike to help them throughout the process."

As for the significant cost of bone marrow transplant, Dr. Lopez says, "it is a fact that this procedure is also a financial struggle for some but we will find means to reduce the price and make it more affordable.

"I could only be thankful for AHMC for providing us with the best equipment and facilities, and, more important, for encouraging us to bring our knowledge and skills closer to the Filipino people."

For more information on Asian Hospital and Medical Center allogenic stem cell transplant program log on to www.asianhospital.com or call 771-9213.

Arithmetic operations

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

I RECEIVED several responses from readers about math teacher Franchita Alcausin's sequence of arithmetic operations in this column two weeks ago (Oct. 12, 2002). Most of them agreed with what I said, but there were two who disagreed, saying that multiplication comes before division. To these two, I suggest that they refer to any arithmetic book or website.

However, I should have clarified the first two letters in Pemdas. Bong Aguilar [maguilar @solidservice.com.ph] reminds us of this:

"I believe that the MDAS or the multiply/divide then add/subtract rule is popularly remembered as the mnemonic device "My Dear Aunt Sally." But what do P and E stand for?"

The P stands for "parentheses" while the E stands for "exponents."

This means that in any sequence of arithmetic operations, the first thing is to do operations within parentheses or other grouping symbols, if any. Then follow with exponent operations, and lastly with the MDAS.

Again MDAS means multiplication and division (from left to right), then addition and subtraction (from left to right).

To those who don't like this rule, this is nothing anyone can do about it. It is a convention, and calculators when properly punched should get it right.

A convention

I agree with Dr. Math (of the popular website Math Forum, www.mathforum.org) who states, "The order of operations in which one is to interpret a mathematical expression such as '2+3*5' is a convention.

"This means that a long time ago, people just decided on an order in which operations should be performed. It has nothing to do with magic or logic. Some people decided to adopt a way, and it has stuck ever since. It just makes communication a lot easier.

"Another way of saying this is that rather than being inherent in the structure of mathematics, the concept of 'order of operations' is a matter of mathematical notation.

"Order of operations refers to which operations should be performed in what order, but it's just convention. The notation tells you which operations to do first, not something about the underlying mathematics."

How about a mnemonic device for Pemdas?

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

The most famous one is called "Please excuse my dear Aunt Sally."

Math hierarchy

Once more, reader Marlo Macatiggay [mmacatig@dairy-farm.com.ph] explains to us the sequence:

"As I remember the rule on math hierarchy in arithmetic, division and multiplication are equal in hierarchy, hence to solve the problem:

"First solve the number inside ( ), the answer of which is -2. It then becomes 25/5 *-2. Then solve it from left to right 25/5 = 5 * -2 = -10.

"Students should always look at the proper writing of the math equations, and a good math student will not always consider 25/5 as a proper form of fraction. If we rewrite this it will become 25 - - *-2 = -10

"Hence the correct answer is -10."

Marlo is correct. Keep Pemdas in mind, and as Ms Alcausin suggested to me, browse through Math Forum for more inquiries.

* * *

(Queena N. Lee-Chua, Ph.D., is an associate professor of mathematics and psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. She also writes the column "Mind Games" for www.inq7.net every Wednesday. Contact her at blessbook@yahoo.com.)

SCISCOPE

Fish stocks dwindling

TOTAL fish stocks in the Philippines decreased by about 30 percent in the past 10 years. Edible species decreased while ornamental ones increased in volume in the same period.

If unabated, decline in valuable fish stocks would upset the livelihood of about two million fishers/farmers in the country engaged in fishing and aquaculture activities. Also, it will cause a possible shortage of protein sources for Filipinos

The International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management (Iclarm) known as the "World Fish Center," revealed the alarming trend in the local fish production after a 10-year research. Iclarm is one of the "Future Harvest Centers" of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), which will hold its annual general meeting in the Philippines starting Oct. 28.

A database of marine species and materials on coastal management techniques were also developed during the studies in support of coastal fisheries management and across-site comparison of selected areas in the Philippines.

There is a need to "rebuild the stocks." according to Iclarm officials, who also advised the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) to act on the problem.

One of the methods in increasing fish production through aquaculture is the genetic improvement of farmed tilapia and other carp species. This project was undertaken by the Iclarm in collaboration with BFAR and other scientific institutions in 1988 and 1997. This pioneering work has demonstrated the possibility of enormous gains in the production of tropical finfish through a systematic genetic selection.

At present, the improved strain is being widely cultured by Filipino farmers.

Vitamin A source

VITAMIN A deficiency is a leading cause of early childhood death and a major risk factor for pregnant and lactating women.

To help solve this serious health problem, scientists at the Centro Internacional dela Papa (CIP) or the International Potato Center are working on a new series of orange fleshed sweet potatoes (*kamote*). These are high in beta-carotene, which the body uses to produce vitamin A.

According to estimates, 50 million African women and children stand to benefit from the new sweet potato types.

The study of new varieties is a collaborative effort of the CIP, one of the 16 international research centers of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), and the civil society in sub-Saharan Africa.

Deployment of the new varieties is scheduled to begin early next year.

Challenges of maintaining family relationships

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

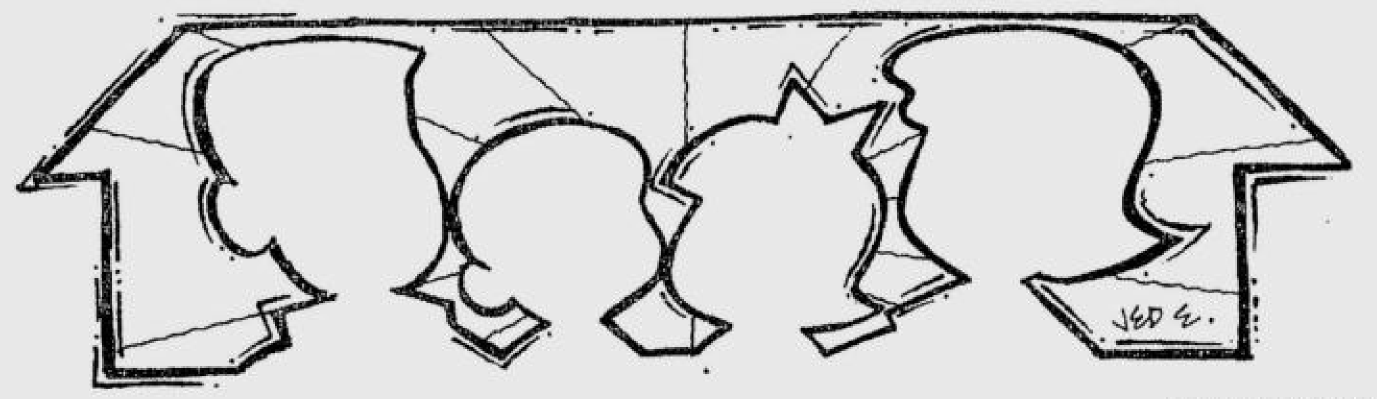


ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

DR. Asuncion "Chona" Reloza and her husband, Dr. Peny, are two heart specialist-friends whose insights on nonmedical topics I always look forward to. Chona sent me a very important message on family and relationships.

As doctors, we sometimes have a tendency to look at patients either as healthy or as diseased bodies. This is why when I started writing Medical Files I wanted to discuss topics that have a significant socio-psychological impact on the person, his family and the community.

I thought this aspect of understanding disease and the patients was equally important as the cure for the disease itself.

Or perhaps, it was simply my way of doing penance for the many years I had unwittingly disregarded this perspective, calling my patients by their bed numbers and looking at them as simply bodies behind medical charts.

Health and relationships

I remember a patient had asked me many years ago: "Is there an association between health and relationships?"

I don't remember how I answered that, but today I would readily say that there is, indeed.

Both psychological and physical illnesses have been reported in children from dysfunctional families. Broken relationships have been reported to be a factor in causing many disorders in adults, including heart diseases and cancers. The ability to recover from illness is also impaired in those suffering from unhealthy relationships.

Family stability

It's indeed sad that the family's stability is being challenged these days by the need for both parents to work, sometimes thousands of miles away from their families, to give their children "a better future."

What happens in many cases though is that the family as a unit breaks up, with each fragment unable to support itself psychologically. This breakup is more likely when the mother has to work abroad.

It is admirable what some people do to bridge the physical gap and maintain long-distance harmony within the family. One may call them a "virtual relationship," an imagined semblance of the real thing, but not quite so.

It's more unfortunate when one sacrifices relationships just to get more than what one actually needs for his family to live a comfortable life.

It is important that we work hard to enjoy life, but sometimes, in the process of working to attain more success, we break relationships and lose the meaning of life, and sometimes, life itself.

Value of relationships

Here's Chona's poignant message emphasizing the value of family and relationships:

"Life is about relationships. From the moment we are born—throughout our childhood, adolescence and adulthood and the many roads and detours we traverse—until the very end, we have relationships.

"A relationship is used to build and nurture, to enjoy or destroy, or even as a means of escape, an excuse for failure or a reason for success.

"What one considers his most important relationship is mostly an individual choice. Whether it is with our universal God, our spouses or life's companions, our biological or adoptive families, friends, leaders, caregivers, mentors, peers, co-workers, or just about every person that touches our lives, the possible choices, challenges and rewards are limitless.

"There are corresponding risks involved, as we all know. Relationships demand a great deal of caring and commitment, of hard work and sacrifice, of faith and forgiveness. They invoke complete trust and loyalty and the determination to hold on in good times and in bad.

"Since we give so much to others, we expect the same in return, making ourselves vulnerable to the pain of defeat, separation or failure. This is duplicated with regularity in our daily lives primarily through our contacts in the home and at work.

"Everyone has his unique experiences in life and stories to tell.

Starting at home

"Perhaps it would be appropriate to start in the home, the foundation of society.

"It is here where character is molded and dreams are nurtured. It is as simple as it is complex, for the family brings together different individuals of different ages, characters and mindsets.

"The traditional home is a unit composed of a set of parents and their offspring. Many homes also include extended family members.

"Current statistics, however, show an increasing number of dysfunctional families in nontraditional settings. The number of cases of separation and divorce worldwide continues to rise. Thus, the family is thrust into a new dimension, challenging its members to cope with and rise above social and contemporary issues to reestablish family values.

"It is no mean task since most households rely on the incomes of both parents to make ends meet and this results in more time away from home and less time for the nuclear family to be together to nurture relationships. Many families have members who work abroad, making it even more difficult on a personal and emotional level.

"Time and again, the family has shown it can rise above difficulties. It copes with a variety of ingenious means via cellular phones, e-mail and the good old-fashioned greeting card or letter.

"It makes quality time. It goes on weekend outings and holds reunions. And always, it showers the members with their own special display of thoughtfulness. Money transfers and *pasalubong* from those abroad, surprise gifts from those at home.

Father, mother figures

"How does each family member view his relationship at home?

"The results of a survey on the Filipino family show the father figure to be very loving of his children but equally concerned about earning a living. He values his *barkada* (gang) and spends time with gang mates even if it translates into less time with his family.

"It is the mother figure that is the jack of all trades, holding a double shift at work and at home. She is the holder of the purse, the disciplinarian, the moral guardian, the heart of the home. She lives for and through her children who are her greatest joy.

"Of her it has been said, 'She is the keeper of our faith in our children, our homes, our families.'

"The children are generally more concerned with friends and recreational pursuits. Their greatest needs include more quality time and closeness with their parents, particularly the father.

"They are also on the lookout for role models. More and more they acknowledge the effect of outside influences on their lives. They agree that many forms of escape such as drugs, alcohol and sexual freedom do not give them the happiness they seek."

Chona (areloza@paficic.net.ph) writes a column on family and relationships, "Ties that Bind," in the Health & Lifestyle magazine, which will come out monthly starting December 2002.

(Dr. Castillo is the president and executive director of Charter—the Clinical Hypertension and Atherosclerosis Research on Therapies, Epidemiology and Risk-management. It is a nonstock, nonprofit research foundation that promotes healthy lifestyle changes in the prevention of common medical problems. It is based at the Manila Adventist Medical Center. Free membership is open to health-conscious medical, paramedical and lay individuals. For an archive of health-related topics and to register as a member, log on to the Charter website: www.chartermamc.org)

Go public or face P50,000 a day fine, DOE warns Caltex, Shell

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy has threatened to slap a fine of P50,000 against Caltex (Philippines) Inc. and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. for every day of delay in their initial public offerings.

The two oil refiners are required under the downstream oil industry deregulation law to offer shares to the public.

In a forum with the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Energy Secretary Vince Perez said the government was "resolute" in its desire to see the two oil giants listed on the local bourse.

"I prefer not to impose the penalty, but I would really like to encourage them to list," Perez said.

Asked about the schedule at which the daily fines would start, the energy chief said the two oil companies would be given a list of minimum requirements to prove their intention to comply with the IPO requirement.

"They will be given a list that they should undertake to show that they are at least going through the efforts of listing," Perez said.

Caltex and Shell were supposed to go public as early as February 2001, but the provision could not be enforced after the justice department ruled that the deadline was "only directory and not executory."

The two oil firms have complained that an IPO will adversely affect their financial health because of a slump in the Philippine stock market.

The justice department, however, required Caltex and Shell to submit quarterly reports on their financial conditions and the progress of their IPO plans.

The two oil companies, Perez said, would have to get their respective boards to approve an IPO.

An IPO, also known as "going public," refers to the first sale of stock by a private company to the public. IPOs are often smaller, younger companies seeking capital to expand their business.

IPOs can be a risky investment for an individual investor. It is tough to predict what the stock will do on its initial day of trading.

Caltex and Shell will also be required to give underwriting mandate in preparation for their IPOs, Perez said.

The two oil firms will also have to file a listing application with the PSE, as well as an application to register securities with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Assemblers press total ban on used vehicles

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

LOCAL commercial vehicle assemblers said yesterday they would support only a total—not a selective—ban on the importation of used vehicles in the country.

Truck Manufacturers Association Inc. president Elizabeth Lee said her group earlier backed the Board of Investments' position pushing for a total ban on all used vehicle imports except for "special purpose vehicles."

The total ban was "explicitly stated" by the BOI during its presentation to industry players, Lim stressed.

This was the reason why the industry was stupefied by Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II's announcement of a "selective ban" on used vehicle imports and a subsequent report by the Department of Trade and Industry-Bureau of Import Services that used light trucks would be allowed for importation into the country under a draft executive order addressing the issue, Lim said.

The DTI-BIS maintained that it never promised the industry of a total ban because the light trucks were produced in small volume in the country and that their used imports provide small entrepreneurs and local government units with more affordable transport means.

PBCom posts P281.8-M net in 9 months

PHILIPPINE Bank of Communications reported yesterday that it earned over P281.8 million in the first nine months of the year, five times higher than the figure it recorded a year earlier.

In a statement, PBCom said its nine-month net income was already above its full-year net income target of P238.1 million.

"PBCom's strong showing was primarily a result of higher fee-based income, sustained recoveries from its special accounts management group and judicious cost management," the bank said.

Many of the country's banks have been posting higher profits this year compared to last year because of large trading gains following a drop in interest rates earlier this year.

The large gains from the sale of government securities have offset lower net interest income resulting from a decline in interest rates. *Elena R. Torrijos*

Cable firms seek help vs 'greedy' content providers

A GROUP of small cable TV operators yesterday sought more government support to protect its members from what it described as "greedy" cable program providers.

The Federation of International Cable TV Association of the Philippines (Ficap) said it supported the National Telecommunications Commission's recent moves to regulate cable TV program providers to prevent abuse and ensure fair play in the industry.

It said the local cable TV industry needed such government support, as local cable operators, especially the smaller ones, could easily be exploited by program providers.

"We need more government support to protect cable operators from exploitation of greedy program providers and to help improve the services of Filipino cable television operators to the viewing public. We will be pushing for even stricter guidelines than what is already being considered by the NTC in succeedings meetings," Ficap national chair Estrellita Juliano-Tamano said in a statement.

Juliano-Tamano said the new guidelines came at the right time, as some big cable operators could be engaging in "some form of secret business deals with foreign program providers to gain monopolistic control over the industry." *Abigal L. Ho*

Roxas asks Apec biggies to honor Doha round

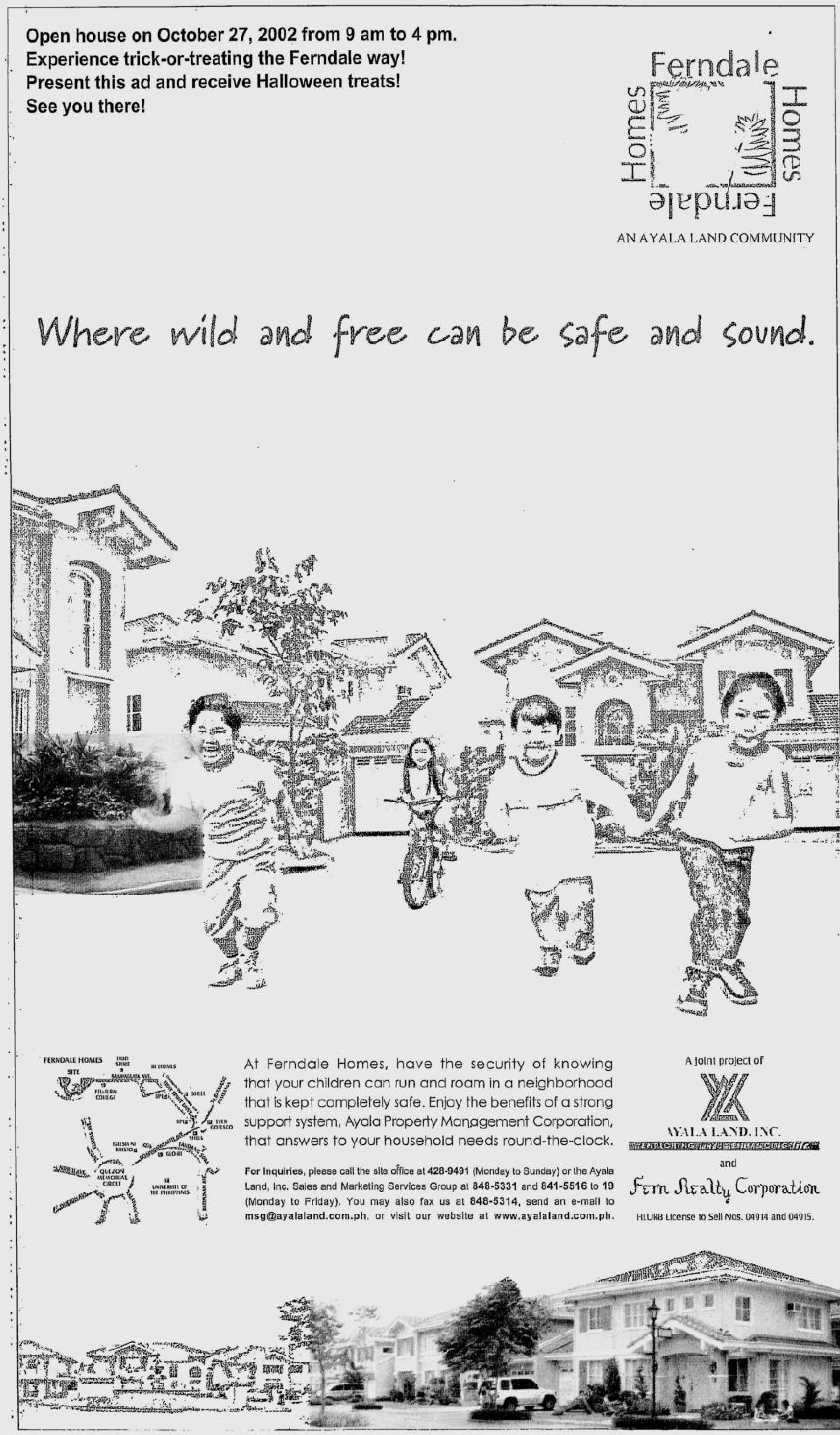
THE PHILIPPINES is asking developed countries in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum to live up to the trade liberalization commitments they made during the Doha round of the World Trade Organization last year.

"All agreements firmed up in Doha last year should be pursued as these are seen to create a level playing field in the liberalized trading regime," Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said in a statement.

Roxas is in Mexico for the 10th Apec Ministers Meeting.

Roxas said during the development round in Doha last year that WTO member countries agreed that the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights would not prevent the state from taking measures to protect public health, such as marketing of patented drugs, strengthen special and differential treatments, and negotiate the phaseout of all forms of agriculture export subsidies and domestic support.

Roxas said member countries should not let Apec become a mere "pep rally" but instead look closer in assessing the challenges confronting members with their different states of economic development. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*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Asean banks urged to join forces

KUALA LUMPUR—Southeast Asian banks must seek regional alliances and mergers in order to survive stiffer competition in the globalization era, industry experts said Thursday.

Banks in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), having survived the 1997-1998 Asian financial crisis, are faced with a new "crisis" on how to cope with competition with international banks which have economies of scale and financial resources, bankers said.

The Association of Banks in Malaysia chair Rozali Mohamed Ali said the crisis exposed weaknesses such as over-gearing, internal inefficiencies and poor financial risk management and there were "no clear success stories." "The last words on the Asian financial crisis of 1997 have not yet been written but it is clear that the crisis was a watershed for the region," Rozali told a two-day Asean banking conference here.

He said Asean banks must discard obsolete practices and become "more diverse, competitive and constantly innovative" to cope with market liberalization under the World Trade Organization.

To survive, they must deepen cooperation and build strategic alliances to enlarge their markets, enhance skill transfer and increase efficiencies to compete with the foreign big boys, he said.

"Strategic reengineering will be a key success factor for banking of the future. We will need to redefine our strategic business focus and in the process find our own markets." Rozali urged Asean banks to outsource non-core activities to service providers to cut investment in infrastructure and expertise, and improve efficiency.

They must boost transparency and disclosure and leverage on information technology to reshape delivery channels, he added.

"The challenges in the new era are great. How we come out will depend on what we do in the next one or two years. One wrong move may mean the end for our institutions," he warned. *AFP*

Japan set to release plans for bad loans, economy

TOKYO—Japan will finally unveil concrete measures to clean up the banking system and fight deflation by the middle of next week, officials said Friday, but reports warned banks may sue the government if the reforms are too tough.

Authorities were likely to decide on "the grand design" of its latest economy-boosting initiative later in the day, said Finance Minister Masajuro Shiokawa.

But time is limited because Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi is due to depart later for an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Mexico this weekend.

Tokyo's final plan will be released on Wednesday, and should complement a key report on accelerating bad loan disposals at banks, compiled by a task force under Financial and Economics Minister Heizo Takenaka, due out the same day.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party and its two junior allies will present their proposal for measures to fight sliding prices and fix the shaky financial system at a meeting with the government later in the day.

The coalition would oppose a proposal in Takenaka's plan to make tax accounting standards at banks more in line with those in the United States, a measure that would result in slashing banks' capital adequacy levels to below international standards, local media said.

The release of a draft report by Takenaka's team was cancelled Tuesday because of stiff opposition from ruling party lawmakers, prompting analysts to speculate the final initiative would be severely watered down. *AFP*

Weekly jobless benefits claims decline in US

WASHINGTON—New claims for jobless benefits fell last week after rising the week before, providing a mixed picture of the job market for workers and employers as the nation's economy continues to struggle toward recovery.

For the week ending Oct. 19, new applications for unemployment insurance dropped by a seasonally adjusted 25,000 to 389,000, the lowest point since Oct. 5, the Labor Department reported Thursday.

The week before, claims rose by a revised 25,000.

The effects of the uneven economic recovery could be seen vividly in the report, which has bounced up and down in the number of people seeking benefits the entire year. For months now, claims have hovered around the 400,000 mark, a level associated with a sluggish labor market.

The moving average, which smooths out those week-to-week fluctuations, fell by 5,500 last week to 404,000, its lowest level since Aug. 31.

Because profits took a hit during last year's recession and are still hurting, some companies have been reluctant to make big commitments in hiring and capital spending, factors restraining the recovery.

At corporate boardrooms, economic uncertainties, including a possible war with Iraq and the West Coast dock workers labor dispute, complicate the business climate, economists say.

Thursday's report also showed that the number of unemployed people continuing to collect jobless benefits declined to a seasonally adjusted 3.57 million for the workweek ending Oct. 12, the most recent period for which the information is available.

The level suggests that businesses are not vigorously hiring.

The report also showed that 40 states and territories reported an increase in initial jobless claims for the week ending Oct. 12, while 12 reported a drop and one had no change.

The Federal Reserve in a report Wednesday painted a somber picture of weak retail sales, tough times in manufacturing and a lackluster job market. Many analysts said the report increased the chances the Federal Reserve will cut interest rates at the next meeting Nov. 6. *AP*

Toshiba losses shrink in first half on cost cuts

TOKYO—Japan's Toshiba Corp. said Friday its group net loss shrank to 26.4 billion yen ($213 million dollars) in the first half from 123.1 billion yen a year ago, thanks to cost-cutting efforts and healthy sales.

But the hi-tech giant warned of economic uncertainties in the coming months and kept its full-year forecast unchanged.

Toshiba's pre-tax loss was reduced to 43.8 billion yen in the six months to September from 196.6 billion yen previously. Its revenue rose 5 percent to 2.6 trillion yen.

"The results reflect solid recovery led by recent initiatives taken by management, including business restructuring and closely focused portfolio management," Toshiba said in a statement.

The company said in April it expected 180 billion yen in cost reductions in the current fiscal year through 11,000 job cuts and restructuring.

Improved orders for electronic devices helped shelter Toshiba from the tough operating environment, characterized by fierce competition at home and abroad and a weak domestic economy.

"Demand was strong for semiconductors for consumer products, particularly audio-visual equipment, and ... cellular phones," it said.

Sales in Toshiba's electronic devices division surged 17 percent to 641.6 billion yen over the period.

Revenue from Toshiba's digital media arm jumped 18 percent to 795.6 billion yen, buoyed by strong orders from overseas for personal computers, which helped offset sluggish consumer spending in Japan.

But weak domestic demand and a prolonged period of deflation ate into home appliance sales, which declined 5 percent on the year to 332.7 billion yen.

Looking ahead, the firm left its full-year forecast unchanged with net profit seen at 23 billion yen and pre-tax profit at 40 billion yen. Full year revenue was seen at 5,650 billion yen.

"Toshiba expects the US and Japanese economies to remain sluggish in the second half of the fiscal year, as capital expenditure continues to be constrained," it said. *AFP*

Wall St. analyst probers meet, little progress

WASHINGTON—Bank lawyers and market regulators talked for three hours on Thursday to try to settle investigations of analyst wrongdoing, but the power players dropped in only briefly, a sign that a deal was still distant.

Sources involved in the talks at Securities and Exchange Commission headquarters in Washington called the session "productive," although SEC Chair Harvey Pitt and New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer attended only briefly.

Negotiations have been under way for three weeks, with some of those involved beginning to wonder where they're going.

Spokesmen at the SEC and for Spitzer declined to comment.

"There's no agreement. Spitzer wants an exit strategy by year-end. Pitt wanted one six months ago, but he can't orchestrate it ... I don't see the exit strategy," said a source close to the talks who asked not to be named.

Attorneys for Goldman Sachs Group Inc., Morgan Stanley and Merrill Lynch & Co. had been expected to attend, along with Massachusetts Secretary of the Commonwealth William Galvin and Utah securities watchdog Anthony Taggart. Bank spokesmen had no comment.

Wall Street stock research has come under fire as misleading and biased in scandal after scandal in recent months, leading Pitt and Spitzer to call for a shake-up of how investment banks issue "buy" recommendations, price targets, earnings estimates and other pieces of investment advice.

At least a dozen financial houses are under investigation. *Reuters*

Boeing Co. to fire 1,200

SEATTLE—Boeing Co. announced plans to issue 60-day layoff notices to 1,200 workers Friday, as it nears its goal of eliminating 30,000 employees by the end of 2002.

The notices include 1,090 to Puget Sound-area employees and will take effect on Jan. 1.

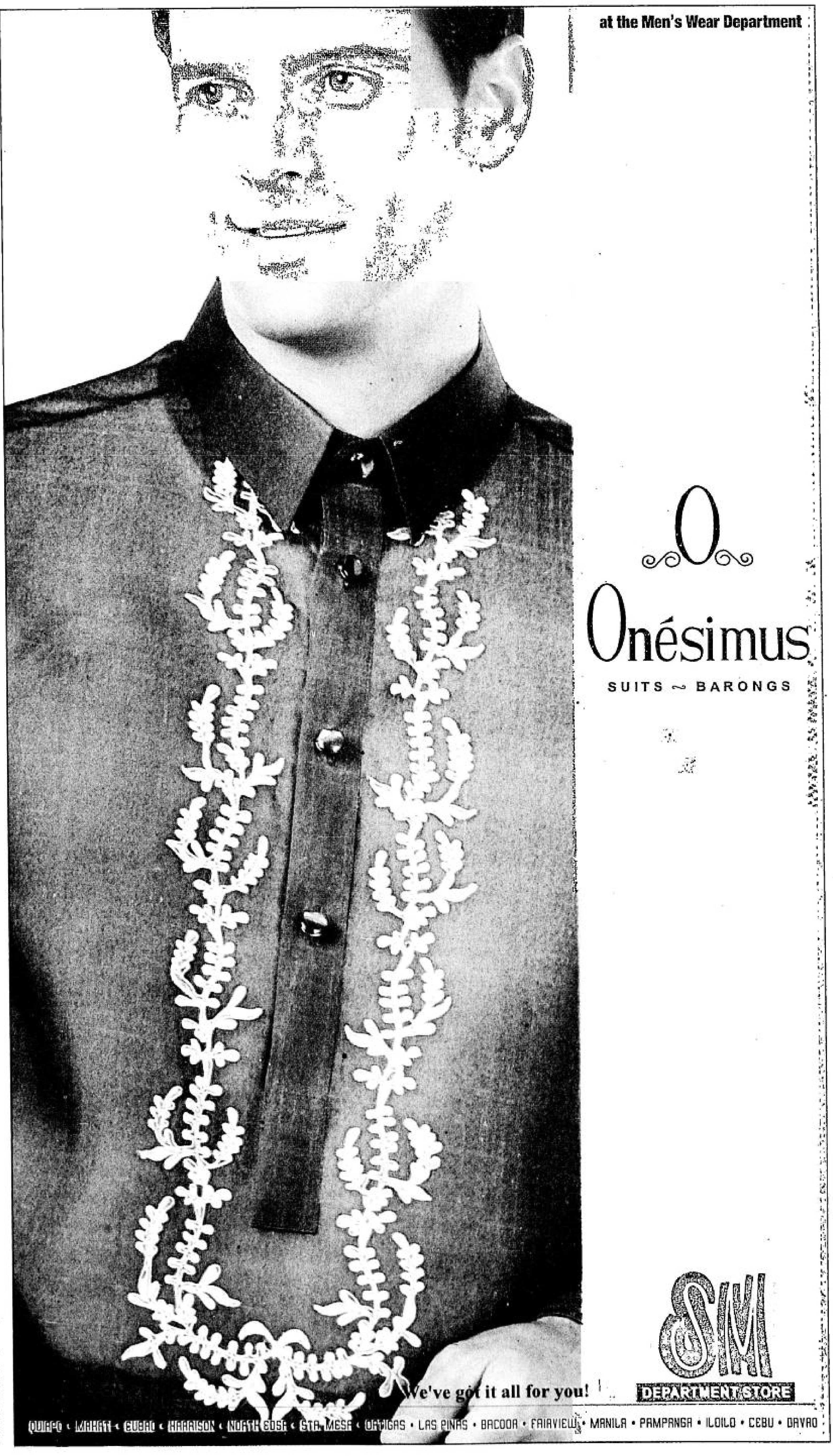
In addition, notices for 240 people, including 100 in metro Seattle, go into effect Friday, bringing the total number of workers cut from the payroll since the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks to 25,640, Boeing spokesman Bill Cogswell said.

Chicago-based Boeing announced last year that it would slash production by half and cut as many as 30,000 jobs because of weak demand from airlines, financially devastated by the attacks and poor economy.

Including the new notices and attrition, the company expects to reach its 30,000 target, Cogswell said.

But Boeing might not be done with layoffs.

In Boeing's third-quarter earnings report last week, chairman and chief executive Phil Condit said the company will need to cut more jobs but was unsure whether additional cuts or attrition would achieve the goal. *AP*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People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Another world's first from Lattice Networks

LATTICE Networks Inc., an affiliate of American Technologies Inc. (ATI) has added another world's first in its long list of networking and communication products; an IT solution that addresses the challenges facing "real world" IT environments, providing simpler network manageability.

At a recent concluded product launch dubbed "The Power of Being There," Lattice Networks formalized the entry of Avocent to the local market. Avocent is the leading supplier of KVM switching and connectivity solutions that enable IT managers in any industry to access and control multiple servers and network data center devices. Just one keyboard, video and mouse gives you centralized management of all your servers, any platform, anytime from any point in the world.

The technology is called KVM; short for keyboard, video and mouse. The main purpose of a KVM switch is to control multiple CPUs from a single console. KVM switches are suitable for any application where a user needs to operate several computers at the same time. KVM products are available to provide extended cabling distances and console signal conversion. Besides the principle cost and power savings of multiple sets of redundant peripherals, the end user also benefits from increased desktop space and saves time and the physical effort of moving between several computers at the multiple locations.

Avocent's customer base includes a broad spectrum of OEMs, distribution and direct sales channels. The company has excellent penetration in the Fortune 1000 companies with strong end user customer relationship.

A live demo of Avocent KVM over IP switching system was presented before exclusive attendees. Showcased were Avocent DS1800, DSR, AMX, CPS800/1600, SwithcView, AutoView and Long View. Charlie Phua, Avocent Technical Consultant-Asia Pacific, gave the technical seminar.

Learn more of Avocent KVM through Lattice Networks at 727-7224/723-0601.

PHILIPS AT BPI INSTALLMENT MADNESS

Celebrities recently joined the rush for Philips products at the BPI Installment Madness held at the Glorietta Activity Center. Christian Vasquez visited the Philips booth at the appliance fiesta and checked out Philips' latest audio and video equipment. Philips Consumer Electronics (PCE) offers the best deals and great value for money with a purchase of any of its wide range of TV sets, mini hi-fi systems, DVD and VCD players as well as Philips Fisio Phones using BPI credit card's Special Installment Plan (SIP). Enjoy 0-percent interest on 3, 6 and 12 monthly installment plans on top-of-the line items and get exciting freebies. This promo runs until Oct. 27. Shown is Christian with (from left) PCE-wireless marketing manager Tetet Songco, actress Bianca Lapus, PCE consumer and trade marketing manager Lea Baterna, and PCE-wireless marketing assistant Michelle Cruz at the Philips booth in Glorietta.

AIWA'S D.I.N.A. WOWS THE CROWD

Dealers and representatives are impressed with the sound power and music clarity of the new D.i.n.a. series mini hifi components from Aiwa. Toshio Suzuki, manager of acoustics engineering for home audio from Japan, is shown giving the dealers a sound demonstration during the recent product launching at Ciao Bar Ristorante, Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati City. Top dealers nationwide came to preview the new models to be launched in time for the Christmas season.

Instant prize for instant germ kill

TEXT your way to free Palm Pilots, Nokia cellphones, cellcards and Vacation trips for two with Listerine's Instant Germ Kill, Instant Prize promo. Until Nov. 15, you can purchase any Listerine variant (80 ml, 250ml, 500ml and 750ml) at participating supermarkets and selected drugstores nationwide. There are two easy ways to win: instant prize and in the SMS Trivia Raffle.

Each Listerine bottle has a scratch-off sticker with a unique game code printed underneath. Just text "LISTERINE JOIN (your name), (address) to 242 for Smart users and 2944 for Globe users.

Once registered, you can send in the code revealed in the scratch-off portion by texting LISTERINE KILLS GERMS (game code) to 242 for Smart users and 2944 for Globe users.

You will automatically receive a text message that will say if you have won an instant prize. Instant prizes include Listerine products; phone cards, Nokia 3310 cellphones, M100 Palm Pilots and vacation trips for two to Hong Kong.

An SMS Trivia Raffle will likewise be conducted weekly. You can win a prize by answering trivia questions from Listerine. Each correct answer will entitle you to a raffle entry.

All entries to the SMS Trivia Raffle for the week will be accumulated and raffled off electronically. Nokia 3310 cellphones and M100 Palm Pilots will be given away.

Upon confirmation of winner's identity, minor prizes such as Listerine products and phone cards will be sent via DHL courier service to the winner's registered address. Winners of major prizes such as phones, pilots and vacations for two should present the following items to the nearest outlet of DHL branch: registered mail, winning SIM card, winning scratch-off card and two valid IDs.

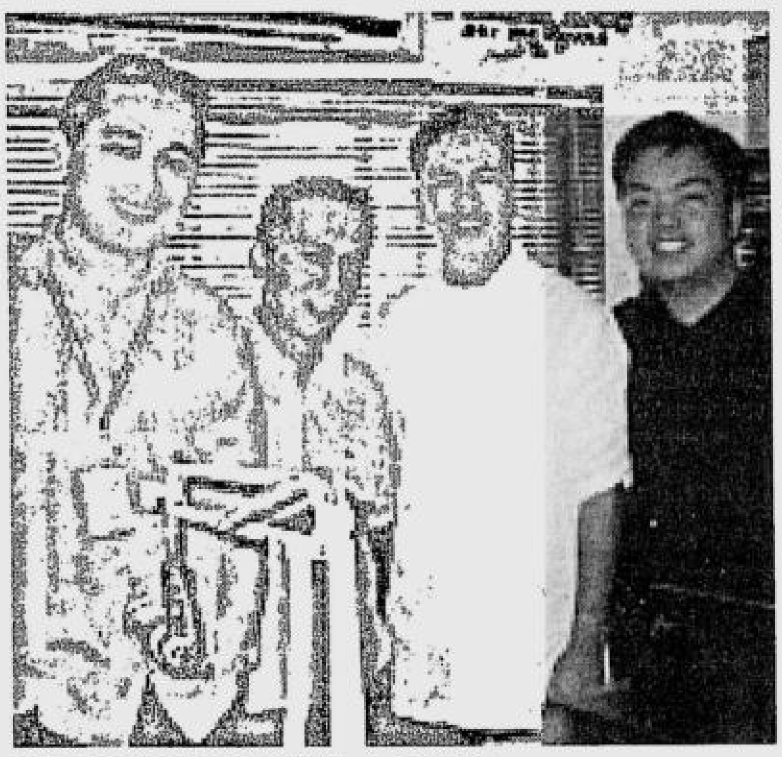
Consultation for SME competitiveness

THE QUALITY & Productivity Organizations will launch a dialogue with the small and medium enterprises on how to increase their competitiveness through Q&P. This kicks off Oct. 26, 8 a.m. to 12 noon at the Philippine Trade Training Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

Owners-entrepreneurs and managers of SMEs as well as representatives of industry associations and chambers are invited to meet the leading Q&P practitioners to discuss programs that will enhance the quality of SME products and services and improve SME productivity.

DESTINY CABLE BACKS PARENTING CONFAB

Multi-awarded cable company Destiny Cable has supported the first-ever Philippine Parenting Convention (PPC) to be held from Oct. 26 to 29 at the NBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio Global City. Destiny Cable becomes the convention's official cable media partner. Shown during the signing is Destiny Cable Inc.'s senior marketing manager Richard Rodriguez (seated right) and PPC chair and TV personality/parenting advocate Anthony Pangilinan (seated left). Joining them are (from left) Destiny Cable's publicist and PPC fundraising team member Gwen Jacinto-Carino, Businesswork's special projects officers Ingrid Espiritu and Elaine Francisco, Destiny Cable's advertising and promotions supervisor Macky Marcos and assistant marketing manager Ramil Bautista. For more information about the PPC, call the PPC secretariat at 435-4301 or 435-4281.



WRAPPING UP WITH A BANG

Canon, the country's top bet in the field of digital photography and print technology, brings the Canon Digital Fair 2002 in Iloilo and Davao. The event, which happened from Sept. 11 to 17 at SM City Iloilo was followed by the Sept. 28 to Oct. 1 treat at the Gaisano Mall of Davao City. Canon treated the crowd with promotions, discounts, and freebies. The Canon Digital Fair 2002 was supported by Electroworld, Concept Computer, Thinking Tool Inc., Emcor Inc., Digital Interface, PC Shack, DC Tech, Smartlink, Silicon Valley and Computer World. Shown are Canon Marketing Philippines staff and Eventscape Manila in the Canon Digital Fair 2002 in Davao. From left are DJ Billy of 89.1, Killerbee Station Manager Escudero, Canon sales and marketing manager Nelson Perez, Canon marketing assistant Patrick Cruz, and Shella Mateo, production manager of Eventscape Manila.

ME IN ACTION
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SUPPORTING WOMEN IN ACTION

'Play!', the top-performing music video program of Net 25, recently fielded VJ Earl (right) and VJ Jade (left) to host an event dubbed 'Women in Action' held at Robinsons Galleria. A fashion show and martial arts presentation, 'Women in Action' featured EssenXa's casual wear and party line and an action-packed display of martial arts and self-defense designed for women. With the Net 25 VJs is Renalyn Santiago of the Trovador Ramos Academy of Martial Arts (Tracma).

SOULED OUT!

Sacred Sound (Nina, Tess, Agnes, Shedar, Mon and Rigel on vocals, RJ, Ray-An, Keng and Jag on rhythm section) will hold a fund-raising concert for the construction of the Life in The Light Christian Fellowship Church on Oct. 28 at the Jesus Saves Global Outreach Ministry, 15th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City, 7 p.m. Also featured are Freestyle, Moonstar 88 and Battery. Musical direction is by Gino Mariano.

GRUPONG ATELIER ART SALE

A group of artists coming together to form Grupong Atelier after graduating from the UST College of Fine Arts several years ago will have a Moving On Art Exhibit/Sale from Oct. 19 to Nov. 9 at the Galeria de las Islas, Calle de Palacio Street, Intramuros. Shown are some members of Grupong Atelier, from left, Hermie J. del Rosario, Romy Salao, Josie Abella, Cheeney Carpio, Ana India dela Cruz, Doodle Santos Viola, Noel Escultura and Trio Tamayo.

CAGAYAN II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Aparri, Cagayan

INVITATION TO BID

CAGELCO II is inviting all bidders for the sale of the following described property

Residential Lot most particularly described:
"Cadastral Lot No. 172, bounded on the north by Quirino St., South, Lots 174-175-B, East, Enrile St. and West, Luna St. with a total land area of 1,862 sq meters"

Location Enrile St., Aparri, Cagayan and popularly called the CAGELCO II Warehouse Lot

Minimum/Base Bid — PhP2,000 per sq. meter

All bids must be submitted on a sealed envelope accompanied by a bid security equivalent to 5% of the bid price in the form of cash or Manager/Cashier's check.

All expenses incidental to the transfer in favor of the winning bidder shall be at his/her expense.

Sealed bid shall be accepted and opened by the Pre-Bid and Awards Committee (PBAC) with the presence of the bidder/s, on November 6, 2002 at 10:00 in the morning, Administration Building, Macanaya District, Aparri, Cagayan

The winning bidder shall be required to pay the remaining balance within thirty (30) days from the date of the bidding, otherwise, the bid shall be cancelled.

Additional information may be furnished upon request or may call telephone numbers (078) 822-8506 or (078) 888-2308

CAGELCO II reserves the right to reject any/or all bids without any reason, waive any required formality therein, accept proposals most advantageous to the Cooperative and assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) GABRIEL A. TORDESILLAS
General Manager

(PDI - Oct. 19 & 26, 2002)

TRADE & INDUSTRY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Trade and Industry is inviting interested Internet Service Providers to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids for the following project:

Project Title	Department of Trade and Industry One-Information-Service-Provider (1-ISP) Project
Service Period	One-Year: 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2003
Approved Budget	PhP 6,000,000.00

Interested bidders may request for a detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) c/o The Director Management Information Service, DTI Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat, 5/F Trade and Industry Bldg., 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, Tel. No. 890-4865 Fax No. 890-4970, e-mail address: mis@dti.dti.gov.ph. The TOR may be picked-up from the said office from Tuesday, 29 October until 8 November 2002 upon payment of a non-refundable processing fee of PhP1,000.00 at the DTI Cashier.

Deadline for submission of eligibility documents is 12 noon, 11 November 2002.

DTI RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR WAIVE ANY DEFECT THEREIN.

This invitation is also posted at the DTI website: www.dti.gov.ph/News&Events.

(Sgd.) ARMIN B. RAQUEL-SANTOS
Assistant Secretary and Chairman,
DTI Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Oct 26 & Nov 2, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Ave., Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632)920-6401 • (632) 920-6446
E-mail: sssemail@info.com.ph • Web site http://www.sss.gov.ph

NOTICE

Please get in touch with the Members Assistance Center, Social Security System (SSS), East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or at any SSS office nearest your place of residence and file your death benefit claim within 90 days upon publication, if you are:

	NAME OF BENEFICIARIES	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBER	DATE OF DEMISE
1)	Kowji Ann, Bozg Aero, Cozby & Kersey Day Arcanghel	Sampaloc, Manila	Baltazar Arcangel SS#03-3684642-0	December 12, 1998
2)	Teresita M. Arcangel	Phase 9, Bagong Silang, Caloocan City	Luis Arcangel SS#03-2303411-8	May 28, 2001
3)	Angeli, Jose & Flora Braga	Unknown	Oscar Braga SS#06-0013447-3	June 16, 1999
4)	Lydia Arellano	Unknown	Crispin Cabudol SS#03-1353943-3	December 20, 1998
5)	Elvira Dablos	Zamboanga City	Victorio E. Campos SS#01-0035374-1	August 7, 2002
6)	Lolita Pabusian Maria Lar Cristina Colores	Sto. Cristo, Tarlac	Ignacio Colores SS#03-2669997-5	July 20, 2001
7)	Rodolfo Corpin	287 4th Ave., Del Pilar, Caloocan City	Alvin Corpin SS#33-3643683-7	December 1, 2001
8)	Juliet Gravoso Rejulie Espiritu	Unknown	Remigio Espiritu SS#03-0162958-8	January 19, 1999
9)	Elpedio B. Gabica	Manila	Juanita R. Gabica SS#06-1656788-5	June 2, 2002
10)	Lolita Goyena	Unknown	Pedro M. Goyena, Jr. SS#03-2018542-7	June 14, 2001
11)	Josephine Helican	Unknown	Nelson Helican, Jr. SS#03-4011712-9	July 20, 2002
12)	Elena B. Ignes	Poblacion Sto. Niño, South Cotabato/ General Santos City	Mario A. Ignes SS#09-1481070-0	June 24, 1996
13)	Paterna Laurente	22 Elga St., Talayan, Quezon City	Segundo Laurente SS#03-3608372-0	August 24, 2002
14)	Natividad Magallon	Unknown	Josefino Magallon SS#06-0240941-0	November 27, 2000
15)	Freya B. Cabrera	Unknown	Jaime Marasigan SS#03-5884793-1	April 14, 2000
16)	Cristina Solis Pacete	39 Cagampang St., General Santos City	Romeo Pacete, Sr. SS#09-0289579-4	April 3, 2002
17)	Milagros Quindipan Geherson Quindipan Marilyn Sales Lyndon Quindipan	Camorao, Narvacan, Ilocos Sur Fuerte, Cauayan, Ilocos Sur	Donald Quindipan SS#01-0279790-7	May 7, 2000
18)	Irenea Rabino	10 H. Tatalon, Araneta Blvd. Ext., Quezon City	Rodolfo S. Rabino SS#03-3680017-8	August 4, 2002
19)	Romualdo Rebollos	Isabela, Basilan	Lualhati Rebollos SS#09-1295575-1	November 30, 1996
20)	Rose M. Regala	Unknown	Oscar M. Regala SS#03-5404955-5	March 13, 2002
21)	Angelita Pakio	Unknown	Maluzalem S. Romero SS#03-7535178-5	August 14, 2002
22)	Sylvia S. Pimentel	New Manila, Quezon City	Gayo Saguin SS#03-5050868-9	December 14, 2001
23)	Emmie Salazar Rogelio Salazar	Unknown	Emmanuel R. Salazar SS#03-1501771-7	June 4, 2002
24)	Rosemarie, Emerson and Erwin Sarmiento	Unknown	Felipe M. Sarmiento SS#03-0085947-2	December 2, 2001
25)	Perlita Sentillas	Unknown	Danilo O. Sentillas SS#03-4695028-3	August 19, 2002
26)	Leonides Bunggapal	Unknown	Ladislao U. Soliven SS#03-4234893-8	July 19, 2002
27)	Maria Ganasioso	Cabanbanan, Pagsanjan, Laguna	Armando Taino SS#04-0249380-0	September 23, 1999
28)	Florinda Senacan	Bo. Sampalocan, Pagsanjan, Laguna	Loreto Tanawan SS#04-0042544-7	July 29, 2002
29)	Roland A. Estonilo Lilia V. Estonilo	PTPI Port Barton, San Vicente, Palawan	Norberto Torda SS#03-2760425-7	May 29, 1999
30)	Florita Torzar	12 Zambales, Cubao, Q.C.	Loreto O. Torzar SS#03-1464259-4	January 5, 1999

(PDI - Oct. 26, 2002) Nothing Follows

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL
SPECIAL DRUGS AND COMMERCIAL COURT
10th Judicial Region
BRANCH 40
Cagayan de Oro City

IN THE MATTER OF PETITION
FOR REHABILITATION AND FOR
THE DECLARATION OF STATE OF
SUSPENSION OF PAYMENTS WITH
APPROVAL OF PROPOSED
REHABILITATION PLAN. SPEC. PRO. NO. 2002-094

OZAMIS MANABAY INDUSTRIES, INC.,
Petitioner.
x-----------------------------/

STAY ORDER

Before this court is a Petition for Rehabilitation and for the Declaration of State of Suspension of Payments with Approval of Proposed Rehabilitation Plan filed by petitioner Ozamis Manabay Industries, Inc. with principal place of business at Gusa Highway, Cagayan de Oro City on September 11, 2002.

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, the court hereby issues this Stay Order pursuant to Section 6, Rule 4, Interim Rules of Procedure on Corporate Rehabilitation requiring compliance with the following terms and conditions, to wit:

a) MR. ROGELIO B. BUCAIS, CPA, is hereby appointed as REHABILITATION RECEIVER of the petitioner and his bond fixed at ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00);
b) Staying enforcement of all claims, whether for money or otherwise and whether such enforcement is by the court action or otherwise, against the debtor, its guarantors and sureties not solidarily liable with the debtor;
c) Prohibiting the debtor from selling, encumbering, transferring, or disposing in any manner any of its properties except in the ordinary course of business;
d) Prohibiting the debtor from making any payment of its liabilities outstanding as at the date of filing of the petition;
e) Prohibiting the debtor's suppliers of goods or services from withholding supply of goods and services in the ordinary course of business for as long as the debtor makes payments for the services and goods supplied after the issuance of this stay order;
f) Directing the payment in full of all administrative expenses incurred after the issuance of this stay order;
g) Directing all creditors and all interested parties (including the Securities and Exchange Commission) to file and serve on the debtor a verified comment on or opposition to the petition, with supporting affidavits and documents, not later than ten (10) days before the date of the initial hearing and putting them on notice that their failure to do so will bar them from participating in the proceedings; and:
h) Directing the creditors and interested parties to secure from the court copies of the petition and its annexes within such time as to enable themselves to file their comment on or opposition to the petition and to prepare for the initial hearing of the petition.

Pursuant to Section 7, Rule 4 of the aforesaid Interim Rules, the petitioner is hereby directed to immediately serve a copy of this Stay Order on the Rehabilitation Receiver appointed by this court, who shall manifest his acceptance or non-acceptance of his appointment not later than ten (10) days from receipt of this Order and put up his bond within the same period

The petitioner is likewise directed to publish this Stay Order in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks before the scheduled initial hearing.

The initial hearing on the petition is hereby fixed on November 06, 2002 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning.

SO ORDERED.

Cagayan de Oro City, September 16, 2002.

(Sgd.) HON. EPIFANIO T. NACAYA, CESO V
Presiding Judge

(PDI - Oct. 19 & 26 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City [illegible]

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Philippine Heart Center will undertake a pre-qualification of the prospective bidders for: a) six (6) months (Jan.-June, 2003) contract for medical/lab., pharma & foodstuff supplies; and b) one (1) year (Jan. - Dec. 2003) contract for security services.

Only accredited bidders/suppliers will be allowed to participate in the bidding

1. Letter of Intent & Company Profile
2. SEC registration
3. Business License
4. List of clients
5. Financial statement (last 2 yrs.)
6. ITR (last 2 yrs.)
7. Location Map of office
8. BFAD Registration/CPR

**secure lists of add'l requirements @ Purchasing Div.

All interested parties are required to submit their pre-qualification documents on or before (a) Oct. 30, 2002 & (b) Nov. 8, 2002.

PHC reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder/s if found that they have submitted falsified docs., and/or information and the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidders.

(Sgd.) RAUL D. JARA, M.D.
Chairman, BAC

(PDI--Oct. 19, 20, 26 & 27, 2002)

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INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals together with the 10% bid bond for the purchase on CASH BASIS of the Bank properties listed below will be received at the **GSD Conference Room 25th Floor, LBP Plaza** not later than **November 08, 2002** @ 10:00 a.m. at which place, date & time, said proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

In case of closely **clustered top bids** (defined as having the second highest bid which is not below 90% of the highest bid), the opening of the sealed bids will be immediately followed by an open auction in which all bidders whose bids are not below 80% of the highest bid may participate. The minimum increase in the open bidding should not be lower than P1,000.

	PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	MINIMUM BID
1.	627-sq.m. parcel of land with 2-storey residential bldg. and 32-sq.m. swimming pool	No. 14 Encarnacion St., Magallanes Village, Makati City	P 20,174,700
2.	311-sq.m. parcel of vacant lot	J. Villena cor. Albert Sts., Poblacion, Makati City	8,241,500
3.	225.90-sq.m. parcel of land (Lot 34, Blk 1) with one storey residential bldg. & 2-door apartment type residential bldg.	No. 27 A. Luna St., Project 4, Quezon City	2,496,000
4.	84-sq.m. parcel of land (Lot 23, Blk. 2) with townhouse type residential bldg.	Congress Road, Deparo, Caloocan City	1,053,000
5.	44,108-sq.m. parcel of agricultural land	Barrio Jasaan, Sta. Cruz, Laguna	1,038,000
6.	264-sq.m. parcel of vacant land (Lot 9, Blk 4)	Victoria St., Vista Verde Exec. Village, Cainta, Rizal	686,000
7.	190-sq.m. parcel of vacant lot		570,000
8.	180-sq.m. parcel of vacant lot	Bo. Tugatog, Meycauayan, Bulacan	540,000
9.	180-sq.m. parcel of vacant lot	Bo. Tugatog, Meycauayan, Bulacan Bo. Tugatog, Meycauayan, Bulacan	540,000
	CHATTELS		
10.	Self-erecting Tower Crane		495,000
11.	Isuzu Dump Truck 10-wheeler (Plate No. UJC208)	Rosario, Batangas Cabuyao, Laguna	60,500
12.	CT Scan, X-ray Machine, Portable X-Ray Machine, Surgical Lighting System, Electrosurgical Machine, Operating Room Table, Electrosurgical Machine, Anesthesia Machine, Computerized Blood Analyzer, Spectrophotometer, Biosystem Photometer, Auto-Clave Sterilizer, Portable Infant Incubator, Defibrilator System		1,728,930

For Item Nos. 10, 11 & 12, public bidding will be held at LBP Leasing Corp., 4th Flr., Century Tower Condo., No. 100 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. For inquiry, please contact Ms. Beth or Ms. Riza at Tel. # 893-5180/817-4540.

If for any reason the above-mentioned date is declared a non-working holiday, then the public bidding shall be held on the next working day at the same time and place aforementioned.

Bidding forms may be obtained from the Office of the Vice President, Special Assets Department (SPAD), Land Bank of the Philippines located at 25th Floor, LBP Plaza, 1598 M. H. Del Pilar cor. Dr. Quintos Sts., Malate, Manila (near Diamond Hotel). Prospective bidders are enjoined to inspect the above listed properties before entering their bids. The sale of the properties shall be "AS-IS-WHERE-IS". The winning bidder/s shall take possession of the awarded properties without seeking assistance from the Bank. The award in favor of the winning bidder/s shall be subject to the approval of the LBP approving authorities.

LAND BANK RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN AND TO ACCEPT THE BID MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE LBP SHALL BE FINAL AND BINDING.

(Sgd.) **JOSE C. NOGRALES**
Chairman
Committee on Assets Disposal

(PDI--Oct. 26, 2002)

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MEGAMALL : **635-0219, 635-0220**

OBITUARIES

"In Christ all shall be alive..."
Corinthians 15:22

SIMPLICIA "Miling" VILLARANTE

Peacefully joined her Creator on 24 October 2002
at the age of 79.

Her husband **Eleuterio "Ely"**, her children **Jimmy & Lorna**, **Danny**, **Gil & Ruth**, **Gigi**, **Guia & Tim Wells**, sister **Fely** & brother-in-law **Jun**, grandchildren **Christian**, **Katrina**, **Katrisha**, **Nicolas**, **Jeremy & Sean**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Holy Family Parish Church, K-7 St. corner K-1 St., Kamias, Quezon City.

Burial Mass will be on Sunday, October 27, 2002, 8:30 AM at the Holy Family Parish Church. Cremation service will follow at the La Funeraria Paz, QC.

In loving memory on
30th Death Anniversary
of our dearly beloved

MARIETA JULIANO ARNAEZ

April 4, 1940 - October 26, 1972

We, **Romy Dart** and **Sandra**, **Richard** and **Day**, **Jumbo** and **Jet**, request all her relatives, friends and pious readers to join us in prayer for the eternal rest of her soul.

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me".

John 14:6

Our Dearly Beloved

URSULA "SOL" C. ESPINA

of Sydney, Australia and Toledo City, Cebu

Peacefully joined our Lord on October 10, 2002 at the age of 72

Her loving children Alex Jr. & Malou, Mlm Aurora & Dan, Angie & Gaul, Alma, Albert, Sandra & Gerry, Girlie & Alan, Maya & Danny; grandchildren Arnel, Alvin, Carlo, Greg, Genina, Adrian, Danna, Lou Ann, Gerika; sisters Filomena & Catalina, relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains will arrive from Sydney, Australia on Saturday, October 26, 2002 and will lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Sucat, Parañaque. Interment will be on Sunday, October 27, 2002 at 4:00 p.m. at the Manila Memorial Park.

We've added another dignified service to keep the memory of your departed loved ones.

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102 years

Atty. ANTONIO CALVO AMOR (Ret. Col.)

Died in the Grace of our Lord on October 23, 2002
at the age of 86.

His loving wife **SOLEDAD**; children **ESTRELLA**, **MARICHIE**, **JOMARI**, **MARY ANN**, **MARIE SOL**, **CHRISTIN & JOSE** and grandchildren request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Ave., Q.C.

Interment will be on Wednesday, October 30, 2002 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Baesa, Novaliches, after the 11:00 a.m. Mass.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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STOCKHOLDERS AND STAFF
OF
ACCRA INVESTMENTS CORPORATION

announce with deep sorrow the demise of our beloved

CHAIRMAN

MANUEL G. ABELLO

who died in the Grace of our Lord
on the 22nd day of October at the age of 68.

We, together with his bereaved family, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Capilla del Señor, Santuario de San Antonio, McKinley Road, Forbes Park.

Funeral Mass will be held on Saturday, 26th of October 2002 at 9:00 a.m. at Santuario de San Antonio.

> *"Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*
>
> *(Romans 8:38-39)*

SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION

Condoles with
the family of
Koji Yamamura, Senior Managing Director of Japan Yamamura Glass,
on the demise of their mother

KIMIKO YAMAMURA

She passed away on October 22, 2002 at the age of 69.

"For my Father's will is that everyone
who looks to the Son and believes
in Him shall have eternal life,
and I will raise him up at the last day."
John 6:40

MA. LOURDES "RUTH" ROA

(February 13, 1958 – October 24, 2002)

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
and among loved ones and dear friends.

Her loving parents **Teresita Rivilla Roa** and **Conrado "Aki" Roa** (†); brothers and sisters **Louie** and his wife **Irene, Debbie, Chit** (†) and **Randy**; nephew **Michael Mark Magsaysay** and niece **Patricia Roa**; request all friends and relatives to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

She lies in state at Christ the King Parish, Greenmeadows, Quezon City.

Interment will take place on Sunday, October 27, 2002, at the Manila Memorial Park, after the 9 a.m. Mass in Christ the King Parish.

"Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." **Matthew 10:39**

NORBERTO R. DIEGO

A family-oriented man, beloved husband to **TUDING**; caring father to **EFREN, LYDIA & CALOY, JUN & RIZZA, CECIL & CONNIE, FELIX & ELAINE**, concerned grandfather to **ARVIN, JERIC, MICO, FRANCIS, PAOLO, JAYSON, KRISTINE, PAULINE, DIVINA, CHELSEA, KATHLEEN & ANGEL**, friend to many whose lives he has touched has joined the Lord last Tuesday, the 22nd day of October 2002 at the age of 82.

His remains lie in state at the family residence at Maharlika Highway, Cabanatuan City.

Mass will be offered on Sunday, 27th of October 2002, 1:00 p.m. at **Dambana ng Ina ng Laging Saklolo.**

Interment will immediately follow at their private Mausoleum, Kalikid Sur, Cabanatuan City (instead of Gapan Cemetery).

Our Beloved Matriarch

Perfecta "Puring" Bancale

Loving wife, mother, lola, and faithful servant of the Lord, peacefully joined our Creator on October 22, 2002 at the age of 82.

Her beloved husband **Tony**, children **Romy, Mayette, June, Loochie** and **Christian**, grandchildren **Toti, Ameeh, Aleth** and **Ash**, and all her relatives and friends will deeply miss her presence but will always cherish her loving memories in our hearts.

Her remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes (Chapel 1-B), 264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, October 27, 2002, 1:00 p.m. at Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

PERFECTO ARMAS CORPUS, SR.

of Manaoag, Pangasinan and Sucat, Parañaque City

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on 24 October 2002 at the age of 78.

His loving wife **Naty**; children **Rose, Resie, Yoly and Joey, Edna** and **Jun, Jun** and **Marlene**; grandchildren **Jenny, Jose Mari Jr., Judith, Marc, Mia, Michael, Katherine, Karl Joseph, Karmina** and **Kristine**; brothers and sisters, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to praise and thank God for saving his soul.

His remains lie in state at Del Pilar Chapel, La Funeraria Paz - Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park) Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Monday, October 28, 2002 at 3:00 PM at the Manila Memorial Park - Sucat, Parañaque City.

Conrado "Tito Rading" F. Tacsuan

(April 4, 1936 - October 24, 2002)

His bereaved wife **Nedy**; children **Chris & Gina, Randy & Christy, Milet, Allan & Leny, Grace**; grandchildren **Maria, Jev, Mia**; brother **Alfonso & Lydia**; sisters **Herminia & Zoilo** and **Tita & Johnny, Norma & Manuel, Corazon, Lilian**, brothers-in-law **Rodolfo** and **Antonio, Jr.**; sister-in-law **Herminia & Enrique**, nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Fr. Willmann Chapel of Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, October 29, 2002, at Gethsemane Memorial Park, Balayan, Batangas after 8:00 AM Mass at the Balayan Catholic Church.

ARMANDO CASTRO DIVINAGRACIA SR.

Died in the Grace of our Lord on October 24, 2002 at the age of 80.

His loving children **ARMANDO JR. & BABY, BETH, EVELYN & SONNY**, and **DITAS & RUFFY**; sisters and brothers **MEDING** (†) & **FRED, NITA & BEN, REME & LILY, TONY & GUIA, JIMMY & SALVE**, and **BELLA & FRED**; grandchildren, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 112 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment schedule to be announced later.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
Matthew 10:39

Atty. Inocencio Eclipse Dumlao

Joined his Creator on October 23rd 2002.

His wife Encarnacion; children Ray, George, Michael, Glenn and Grace; grandchildren Raquel Denise, Ryan David; John Paul, Richard, Elizabeth; Gadiel Michael, Raphael Michael, Daniel Michael; Charles Edward, Mark David and James Anthony; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment schedule will be announced.

JUAN ELEAZAR de IBAZETA

05 November 1913 - 24 October 2002

Died in the Grace of our Lord and joined his first wife
***Rosario Chaccarategui de Ibazeta** (†)*

JI lies in state at the Capilla del Señor, Santuario de San Antonio, McKinley Road, Forbes Park. His mortal remains will be cremated on Sunday, 27 October 2002, after the celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 1:00 in the afternoon.

His wife, **Carmelita Lim de Ibazeta**; his children: **Nono** and **Sylvia**, **Nena** (†) and **Arru Gallaga**, **Tessie** and **Nel Gutierrez**, **Loulette** and **Bong Vilchez**, **Mila** and **Jimmy Lim**, **Dindo** and **Vilma**, **Eddie** and **Cristina**; his grandchildren: **Ivi** and **Nino Fandiño**, **Baba**, and **Juan**; **Martin**, **Ramon**, **Lisa**, and **Dado**; **Ramon** and **Kristen**, and **Dominic**; **Carlos** and **Charisse**; **Isabel**, **Jeff**, and **Jen**; **Javi**, **Paolo**, **Anna**, and **Myka**; **Edu**, **Nica**, and **Jessica**; and his great granddaughter, **Carrie** request relatives and friends to pray for his eternal peace and to keep his memory alive in their hearts.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Family Wellness Center Foundation and to the renovation of St. Andrew's Parish Church will be most appreciated.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.
Now there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness with which the Lord,
the just judge, will reward me on that day..." (2 Tim 4:7-8)

The Management and Staff of

A Soriano Corporation

share the deep sorrow of the family of the late

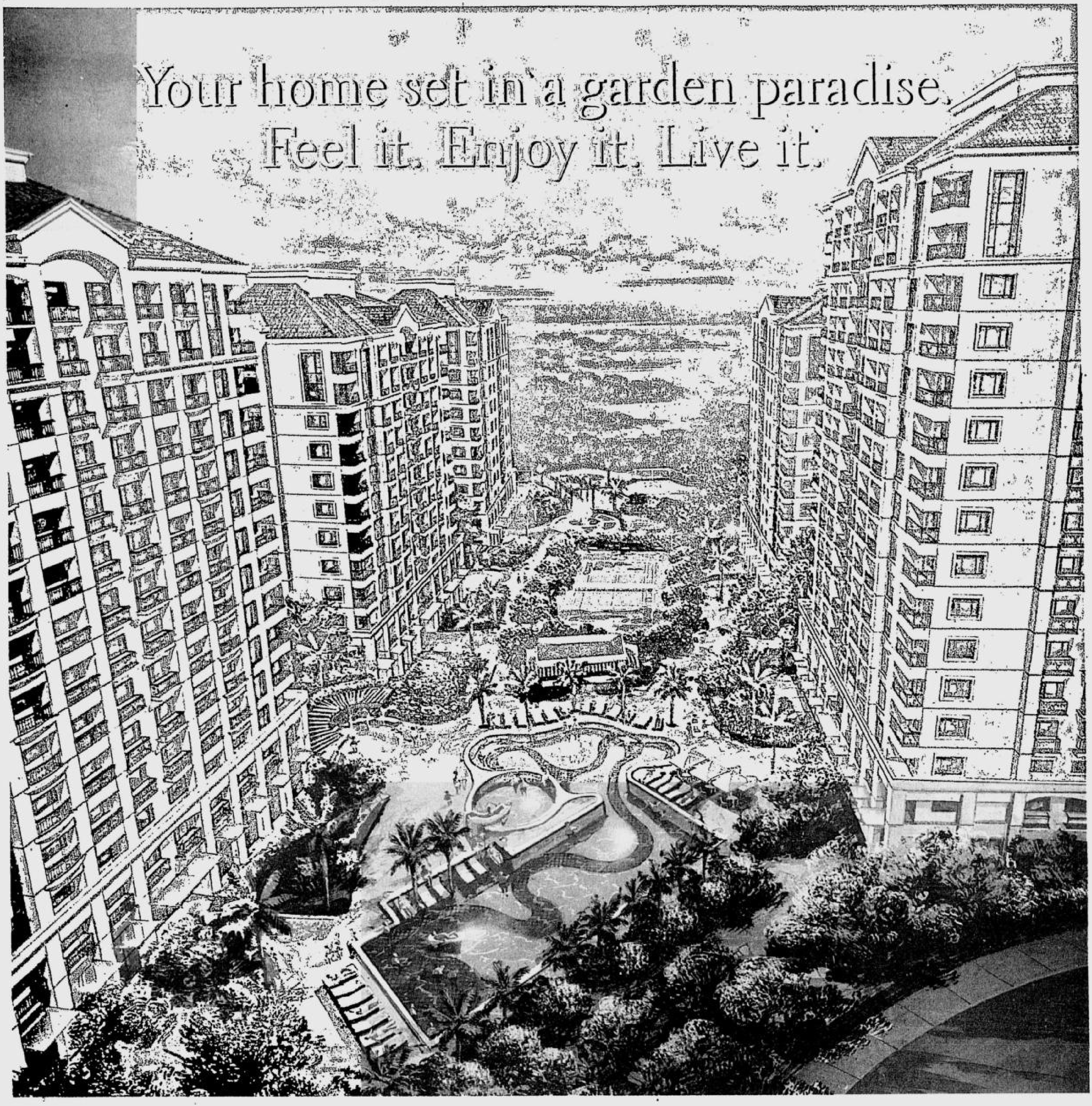
JUAN ELEAZAR de IBAZETA

Chairman Emeritus, 1993-1997
President and Chief Operating Officer, 1980-1990

who died in the Grace of our Lord on 24 October 2002.

His remains lie in state at the Capilla del Señor,
Santuario de San Antonio, McKinley Road, Forbes Park.
The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated
on Sunday, 27 October 2002 at 1:00 in the afternoon,
after which his remains will be cremated.

A Soriano Corporation joins JI's family in requesting
relatives and friends to pray for his eternal rest.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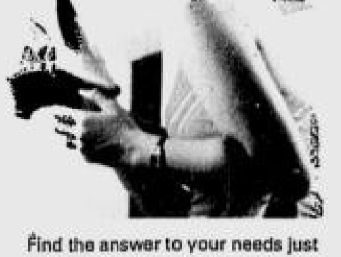

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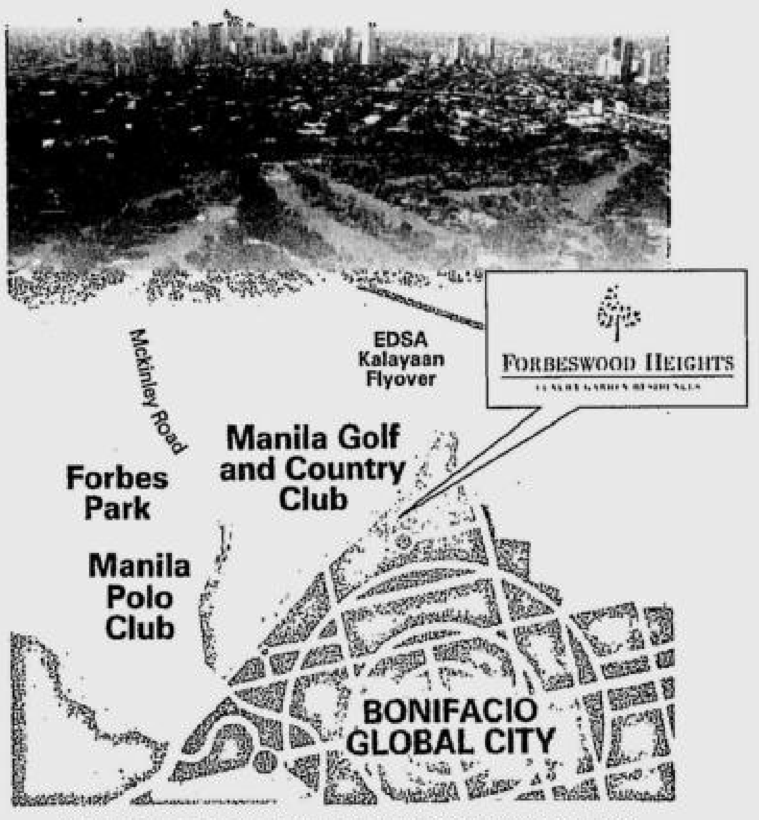
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SATURDAY Special
Editor Nestor U. Torre ● Associate Editor Edmund L. Sicam

WINFREY. Has long waged a campaign against the image of thin at any cost.

Full figures come full circle in Hollywood

'Fed up with the pressure to look perfect, celebs get more confident living large'

By Gildas Le Roux

LOS ANGELES—The recent success of several full-figured leading ladies has thrown a curve to Hollywood's mandate for anorexic-thin stars.

Plump bride

In this summer's sleep hit "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" the plump bride, played by Nia Vardalos, learns to love her full figure, a far cry from the long-lined Julia Roberts, Cameron Diaz or Calista Flockhearts of the entertainment world.

On television, 17-year-old Kelly Osbourn, from the smash hit MTV reality show "The Osbourns," is another example of the trend toward flesh.

Rocker Ozzy Osbourn's daughter found herself last month on People Magazine's best dressed list, a bible for celebrity chic.

In its latest issue, the weekly proclaimed on its cover "Sexy at any Size!"

"Fed up with the pressure to look perfect, celebs get more confident living large," said People, which illustrated its point with photos of the sexy, voluptuous actress Catherine Zeta-Jones and talk show queen Oprah Winfrey.

Cable network

Winfrey is a veritable American style institution, consistently topping Forbes magazine's most powerful people in the entertainment industry list. In addition to her 16-year top-rated syndicated talk show, she also has a successful magazine "Oprah" and cable network called Oxygen.

In all of her media, Winfrey has long waged a campaign against the image of thin at any cost, exposing celebrity and everyday women's battles with such eating disorders as anorexia and bulimia.

"The tyranny of the emaciated frame is over," declared stylist Isaac Mizrahi.

Even fashion model Kate Moss, a longtime poster child for the twig-thin waif generation of "heroin chic" models, recently gained some flesh while pregnant with her daughter Lila Grace, born at the end of September.

Anna Nicole Smith, famous for marrying a billionaire octogenarian, has also captured the public's imagination in a reality show where the plus size model shares everything about her life from her breast implants to her dog's depression medicine.

"Real women have curves," is the title of a new film coming out Friday. It is a credo often espoused by actress Camryn Manheim who stars in the hit TV series "The Practice." In her book "Wake up, I'm fat!" she proclaims: "If Barbie were a real woman, she'd have to walk on all fours due to her proportions." A barometer for changing trends, the famous New York toy store FAO Schwartz recently released a new doll: Emme, modeled after the famous plus size model Emme who weighs 190 pounds.

Sporting a size 16, this doll walks on two legs. *AFP*

PLUS size model Anna Nicole Smith.

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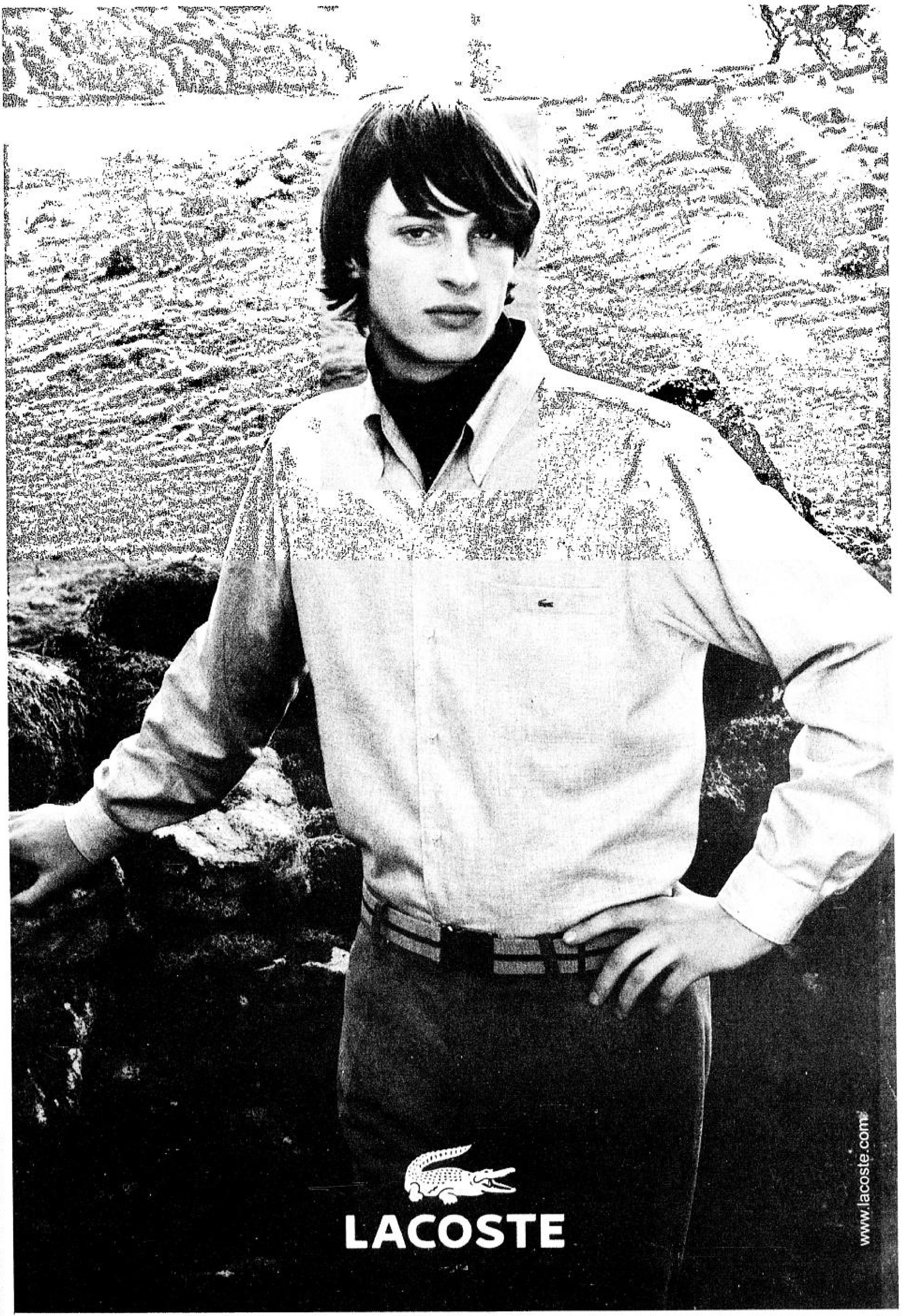

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Indian epic on limited run at ArtFilm

By Nestor U. Torre

SHOWING at Greenbelt 2 ArtFilm from Oct. 27 to 29 is an Indian film, "The Legend of Bhagat Singh." We have been able to preview the movie on disc, so here are some advance notes on it:

Freedom fighter

The period film is a major production with many big, panoramic scenes, as befitting a biographical epic about one of India's heroes who fought for freedom against the country's British colonizers.

The movie informs us that Bhagat Singh was a rich man's son who had a good education, but gave up all that to help the poor, and to motivate them to fight for their independence.

His personal involvement started when he was only 12 years old, after learning of the horrible massacre of scores of Indians who flouted a British order against public assembly.

Later, he allied himself with Mahatma Gandhi's non-violent opposition movement, but was crushed when Gandhi was reported to have weakened his position by deciding that Indians were not yet ready for democracy.

Bhagat Singh then became a member of a more activist group, and quickly proved his worth both as a thinker and an action man.

Golden opportunity

His parents wanted to arrange a marriage for him, and the chosen bride turned out to be a wonderful, loving person. But he passed up the golden opportunity to be happy with her, because he had vowed to dedicate his life to the protracted struggle to liberate his brutally oppressed country.

The film depicts the British colonizers as cruel oppressors, especially the youths who beat up Indians with sadistic relish. A particularly provocative scene is set in a moviehouse that has a section exclusively reserved for the white colonizers, as stated by an insulting sign that reads: Dogs and Indians not allowed. Well, you can imagine how incensed the Indian activists are over this racial slur!

Hortatory moments

The movie is full of hortatory moments like this, but it does try to make historical and political developments comprehensible to today's viewers, many decades after the fact.

In addition, some entertaining touches leaven the political lectures, with musical numbers and an occasional love angle mixed into the scenario's series of passionate arguments, the activists' raids and the colonizers' bloody counterattacks.

Difference

An effective scene is the one in which Bhagat Singh makes a colleague understand the difference between violence and self-defense. The colleague doesn't want to bear arms against the colonizers, but when Bhagat Singh corners him, he fights to protect himself—and our hero proves his point.

Some viewers may be thrown off by the movie's hortatory style and black-and-white dichotomy between heroes and heels, but we believe that this production has enough good things to offer to make it a worthwhile viewing experience.

As for those lush musical numbers that some viewers may feel intrude on the flow of the storytelling, viewers should remind themselves that these are a convention of Bollywood filmmaking that has already been accepted as an element of its unique style, and has even been enshrined as a major element of some popular India-based musicals now playing in the west.

AJAY Devgan as Bhagat Singh.

Rudy Fernandez revives production company

FERNANDEZ. Meticulous.

By Remy M. Umerez

A VISIT to the set of a Rudy Fernandez movie means great eats, and being served by the action star himself with a big smile.

Discomfort

We were joined by his co-star Rufa Mae Quinto whose smile turned sour when we were practically bathed in smoke from a teak platter. Couldn't blame Rufa for the discomfort it caused. A kissing scene was to be shot later and she didn't want Rudy to remark, "*Amoy steak ka.*"

Rufa didn't mind that her role as a clairvoyant was first offered to Maricel Soriano and Judy Ann Santos. The two actresses loved the role but had to turn it down because of previous commitments.

"I am very proud and happy to be chosen as the leading lady of Daboy. Aside from Ronnie Poe, *siya na lang ang hindi ko nakakapareha,*" she revealed.

"We are nearing completion. This is our 22nd shooting day and I've noticed how meticulous Daboy is with every scene that we shoot. I think Daboy will be a good director someday because he strives for perfection," the sexy star says.

With this new movie, "Hula Mo, Huli Ko," Rudy revives his movie outfit, Reflection Films. The film is intended for the Metro Manila Film Festival.

Cult

Originally titled "Uno Corinto" the offering is action with touches of comedy, romance and drama. And mystery. The basic plot is serious, focusing on a cult engaged in satanism. The treatment, however, is not that dark. On the contrary, it is lighthearted and entertaining.

RUDY/ C3

DE LA CRUZ. Her new soap starts Nov. 4.

Angelika de la Cruz renews GMA contract

By Edmund L. Sicam

"IKAW Lang ang Mamahalin" will fade out from the TV screen after Friday, Nov. 1 but its leading lady, Angelika de la Cruz will be seen in another soap which starts on Nov. 4. The young star has just renewed her exclusive contract with GMA-7 which guarantees a continuing role in a soap, two guestings a month on GMA shows and a slot on "SOP" every Sunday.

Cast

The new soap is "Habang Kapiling Ka" and it also stars Ruffa Gutierrez, Albert Martinez, Tonton Gutierrez, Chin Chin Gutierrez, Snooky Serna, Alma Moreno, Chynna Ortaleza, Richard Gutierrez, Toni Gonzaga and Railey Valeroso. It is directed by Maryo delos Reyes.

"I play Erica Capistrano. *Siya yung nawawalang tunay na anak. Mahirap ako dito,*" explains *Angelika*. *"Iniba ko talaga ang* look *ko* from *'Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin'*—I cut my hair. *Naka-*bangs *na ako ngayon. Hindi naman puede na, magkasunod na* show, *tapos, ganun pa rin yung itsura ko."*

About her new character, Erica: *"Siya pa rin yung* heroine, *so ako pa rin yung inaapi. Sa 'Ikaw Lang,' tatanga-tanga lang ako. Dito, palaban.* And she's more mature. *May* kissing scene. *Si* Victor Neri is my leading man. (This was the role meant for Robin Padilla, but negotiations fell through.)

"He's supposed to be older than I am. *Mahirap kami pareho. Siya yung kuya-kuya ko, yun pala,* he's in love with me. So *talagang* he has to be an older guy."

We tease her: is she the most expensive soap opera actress because of this show? Angelika protests, *"Hindi, mas mahal si Ate* LT (Lorna Tolentino), *tsaka siyempre si* Superstar."

Movie project

How about movies? It's been awhile since she's been on the big screen. *"Dapat may* movie *akong gagawin, pero binabasa pa ni* Daddy *yung* script. The script that Viva gave me is not bold, it's just more mature than the

ANGELIKA/ C4

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Rudy Fernandez revives production company

QUINTO. Plays a clairvoyant whom nobody takes seriously.

From page C2

The backdrop is a cult whose members kill good priests. The victims follow the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians: If you wish to serve God, don't marry. But if you are already married, consider yourself unmarried."

Detective

As expected, Daboy is a detective investigating the gory deaths of priests, attributed to a cult of satanists with an elusive leader. In his quest, he meets a "*manghuhula*" depicted by Rufa Mae, whose predictions are accurate, but the problem is, no one takes her seriously.

"Hula Mo, Huli Ko" is megged by Eadgardo "Boy" Vinarao. For her role as a clairvoyant, he reminded Rufa Mae to forget her "booba" image. In "Hula Mo, Huli Ko" she plays a different character, funny without meaning to be, with the situations creating the comedy.

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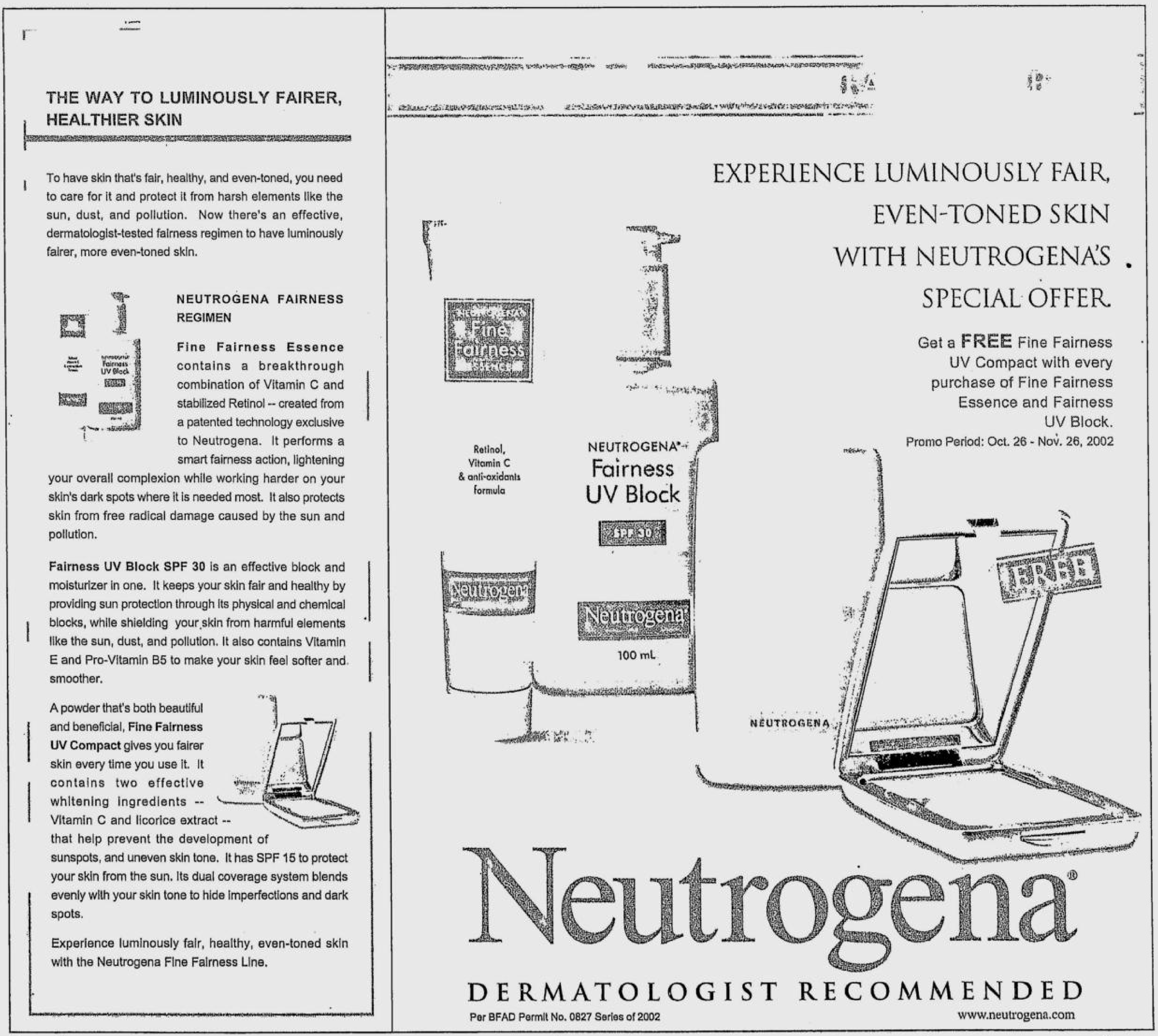

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Jackie Chan just wants to act

By Bob Tourtellotte

LOS ANGELES—While Hollywood searches for the next big action hero, Jackie Chan just wants his next acting gig. That's right, acting, and a little love.

Romance

His current film "The Tuxedo" features Chan's trademark martial arts fighting and the comic sidekick his fans have come to expect in his Hollywood movies. But "Tuxedo" also adds something new for Chan—romance—in the form of Jennifer Love Hewitt.

And in his own way, Chan is finally getting the chance to try out his acting skills in romantic company.

Think of an Asian Cary Grant crossed with John Wayne, Robert Redford and Sylvester Stallone—!

"I don't want 'Rush Hour' 1, 2, 3, 4, 5," Chan said in an interview, referring to the enormously successful box office hits in which he starred opposite comedian Chris Tucker.

"Someday I really want to be only an actor. The actor's life is long. The action star's life is very short," he said.

A veteran of well over 100 films, mostly made in Hong Kong, and a superstar in Asia, Chan has been making strong inroads into Hollywood movies.

"Rush Hour" (1998) and "Rush Hour 2" (2001), in which he played a Hong Kong cop, raked in $245 million and $329 million, respectively, worldwide.

Western

"Shanghai Noon" (2000) a western in which Chan was a sort of bodyguard to an Asian princess alongside a reluctant gunslinger, played by Owen Wilson, was successful enough to spawn a sequel, "Shanghai Knights" due for release next year.

But Chan has been around the movies and in Hollywood long enough to know that at 48, his days of high kicks and death-defying stunts are nearing an end.

For the past year, at least, he has been talking about changing his career and "The Tuxedo" is his first chance. "I have to let audiences see I have a different style," he said.

In the movie, Chan portrays a lowly taxi driver named Jimmy Tong, a normal guy who is comfortable in a T-shirt and blue jeans and likes his job, but has a hard time with women and could do with a little more cash.

When Tong lands a chauffeur's job for rich man-about-town Clark Devlin, who doubles as an agent for a super-secret government agency called the CSA, he thinks he may now have the status, the cash and the clothes to get his dream date.

Field work

Enter Hewitt, who shows up as fellow CSA agent Del Blaine, a scientist looking for her first shot at field work.

"I get kind of excited about getting beat up and thrown around," said a joking Hewitt, known to her friends by her middle name Love.

The 23-year-old, who was born in Texas, said she had always been something of a tomboy since she was young, and a huge fan of Chan's.

"The main reason I wanted to be in the movie was because of him," she said.

When agent Devlin is hurt in a bomb explosion—a fact that remains unknown to the CSA—Tong dons his boss's gadget-filled tuxedo and finds he can do anything Devlin could. Quickly, he assumes Devlin's identity.

He's got the job and he's got the suit; all he needs is the girl. That comes soon enough when Blaine and Tong pair up to catch a villain with a plot to monopolize the world's water supply, then make people thirsty.

If the plot sounds silly, it is. But "Tuxedo" is a Jackie Chan movie, after all. It's supposed to make audiences laugh.

Chan does get a small chance or two to do his acting best within the romantic give-and-take between Tong and Blaine.

Appealing

Of course, in "Tuxedo," it turns out that Blaine is not the meek character she pretends to be. In fact, she can kick butt right along side Tong—which makes Hewitt all that more appealing to a guy like Chan.

"She can do everything," Chan said. "Even men say 'I'm not going to do that, Jackie. It's too dangerous, ooh, it's too difficult.' *She* never says too difficult," Chan said.

Hewitt cracked her ankle doing a triple kick and had to be taken to hospital.

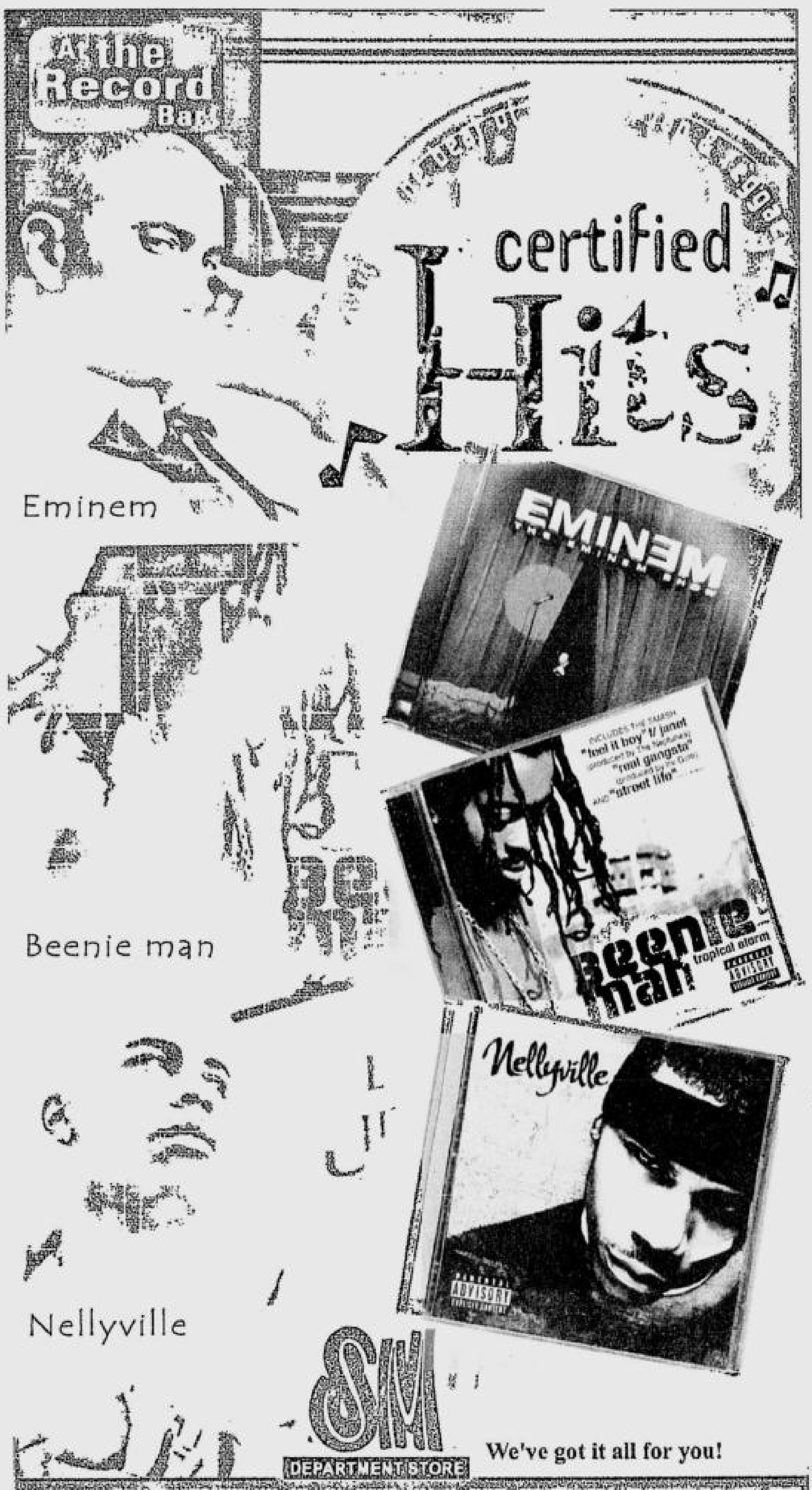
Chan visited her and signed her plaster cast. She still has it.

"Jackie signed it," Hewitt said. "Are you kidding me, of course I (kept it) . . . You know what he wrote on it? Stick to dramatic films." Chan hints that may be where he is heading after his first try at romantic comedy.

"I don't want somebody to later mention my name, always 'Jackie Chan,'" he said, making a yelping karate cry, "Hi-ya," and drawing up his hands in a fighting stance.

"Why does nobody ever say, 'Robert De Niro'" he added, with another high-pitched "Hi-ya" and flurry of fists. *Reuters*

CHAN. At 48, he's ready for some career adjustments.



We've got it all for you!

Ara Mina plays a bored housewife in 'Two-Timer'

By Edmund L. Sicam

ARA Mina is quite busy these days, what with two movie projects lined up for exhibition in the last quarter of the year.

In Mel Chionglo's "Two-Timer," she plays a bored wife who resorts to one-night stands to inject some excitement into her otherwise dull existence. Her abusive husband is played by Albert Martinez. One of her one-night stands, played by Wendell Ramos, gets obsessed with her and ruins her life.

In "Mano Po," she plays the rebellious daughter of a Chinese couple. For the movie, she had to learn how to speak Fookien.

Roles with substance

Ara's roles still require her to disrobe, but they seem to have more substance. Is this a conscious effort on her part? Ara reveals that one of her goals in life is to win an acting award. "I'm looking for a project *kung saan talagang ma-a*-accept *yung* acting *ko*." She views awards as the ultimate recognition of her work.

She confesses that sometimes she gets tired of the films that she is cast in. "*Sa dami ng ginawa kong* bold scenes, *naghahanap ako ng iba. Maganda yung ine*-explore *mo ang sarili mo.* Like *sa* 'Mano Po,' *pinasingkit ako, tapos rebeldeng anak ako.*"

ARA wants to win an acting award.

Of course, she appreciates it when her movies make money, but she is starting to look for something more.

Ara tells us that she is pleased with herself at this point in her career. "Happy *naman ako. Sabi nila nag*-improve *daw ako*. In "Two-Timer," she says Chionglo made her do "eye-acting" for most of her scenes. "*Medyo mahirap gawin iyon.*"

Love scenes

In "Two-Timer," Ara got to do a lot of love scenes in different locations and with different actors. She has love scenes in a shoe store, a convenience store, a jail, and even in an ice delivery truck! The scene in the truck was the most memorable and difficult for Ara.

"*Ang lamig!*" she winces, recalling the scene. "*Hindi namin hinigaan iyung bloke ng yelo, nandoon kami sa paligid, tapos nakapatong yung dalawang paa ko sa* ice. *Madaling araw pa iyon. Ang ginaw!*"

Would she do that in real life? What would she prefer? "*Iyung tama lang ang* temperature!" she answers immediately. "*Kahit gaano ko pa kagusto yung lalaki,* never *ako makikipag*-lovemaking *sa* ice, *dahil* super *ginawin ako!*"

Rumor

Talk shifts to the rumor that she and co-star Wendell Ramos are a hot item, and that she is the reason why Wendell and his wife got an annulment.

"*Diyos ko naman!*" she exclaims, "*matagal na yung* annulment *nila*, one year *na yata. Sa akin na naman isisisi?*" She does admit that they are close, but he is not courting her. "*Kasi para sa akin, di na uso ang ligawan e. Parang,* friends *kayo,* eventually *made*-develop into a romantic relationship. *Kasi nako-kornihan ako sa nanliligaw e. Gusto ko,* getting to know each other as friends, *tapos may mararamdaman kang* 'magic!'"

She describes Wendell as "*mabait, simpleng tao, hindi mayabang.*" What does she like about him? "First, his physique—and then, the fact *na nirerespeto niya ako. Hindi siya yung tipong . . . yung ibang lalaki kasi, may pakagat-kagat pa ng labi pag tumingin sa iyo!,*" laughs the sexy actress.

Angelika . . .

From page C2

usual things that I do, *lalo na* on TV. It's called 'Kasalo' and it's written by Lualhati Bautista."

She also hopes her problems with her recording company get resolved so she can resume her recording career. "*Ako ang hindi makakilos, ako ang hindi makagawa.*"

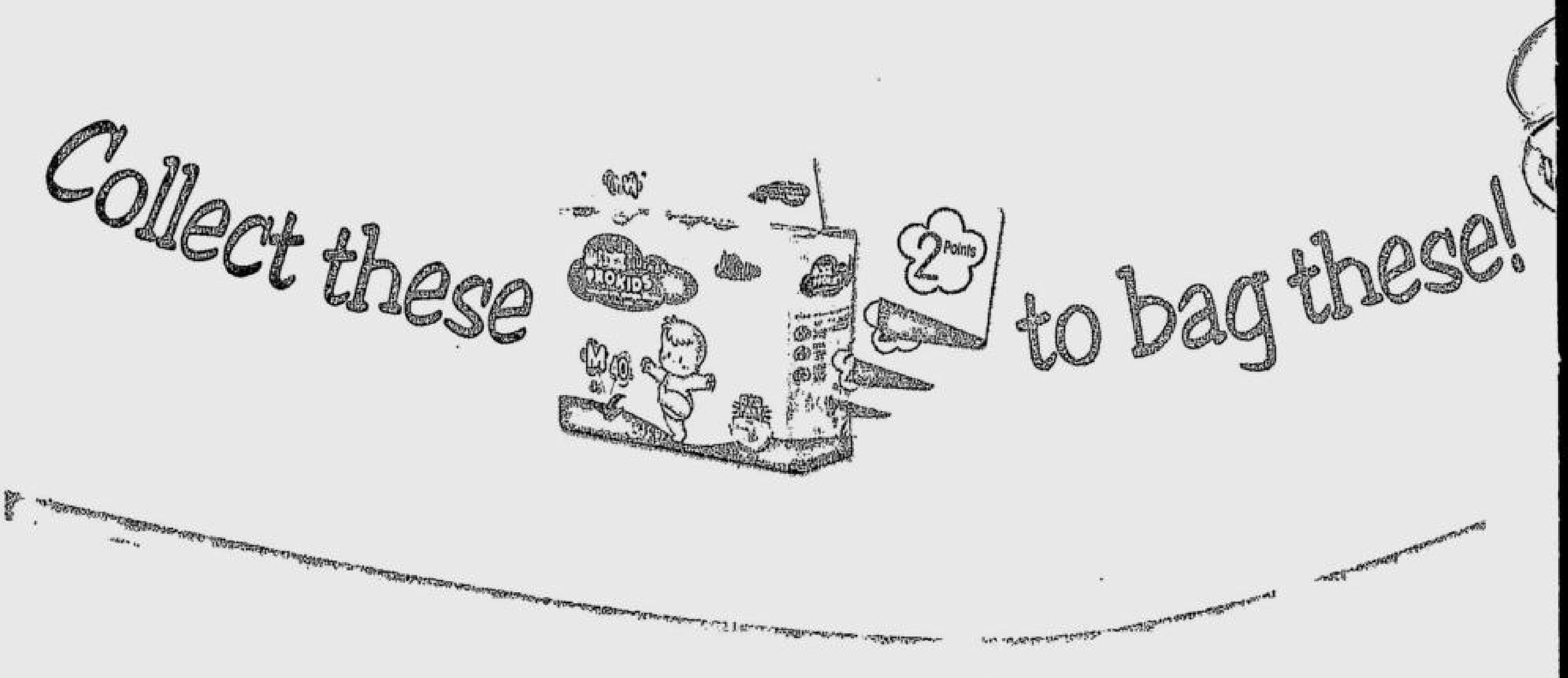
Besides her show biz career, Angelika has a water station business in Malabon. She is also putting up a house for her family there. Why Malabon? "*Ayokong umalis ng* Malabon, because someday I plan to go into public service, *so doon ako. Siyempre, doon ako lumaki, doon ako tutulong.*" After all, Angelika turns 21 on Oct. 29, so she already knows what she wants.

Priority

How about love, would she give up her career for it? "No. If he loves me, he would understand. But my priority is my family. And love and career don't mix—*mahirap paghaluin. Ang hinihingi ko lang, kung ma*-in love *ako, sana* not with someone from show biz. *Maganda kung magkahiwalay kayo ng trabaho.*"

Angelika states firmly, "If I'm going to have a boyfriend, he should make *akyat ligaw sa bahay. Kung magse*-send *siya ng* flowers *sa* set, okay *lang, katulad ng ginagawa ng mga manliligaw ko.*" Yes, she does have suitors now. No one she's serious about yet, though, since she's focusing on her career.

How about Mico Sotto? "*Lagi nga kami nali*-link, *e. Ang dami naming* issues. *Kami naman kasi ni* Miko, we're the type *na, o, labas tayo, tara game, 'nood tayo ng* movie. He's a special guy to me, *pero,* there's no romantic relationship. *Di ko kaya.*"



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From the boob tube to the silver screen

By Nestor U. Torre

TOMORROW'S film stars traditionally cut their thespic teeth on stage productions and, more visibly, on television. So, if we want to get a sneak preview of the next entertainment season's new movie luminaries, this year's television shows can provide a good showcase. Popular TV programs are starmakers in their own right.

Unorthodox teacher

Take "Boston Public," for instance. The relatively new Studio 23 series about teacher-student relations is telecast every Saturday at 8:30 p.m. and stars Nicky Katt as an unorthodox geology teacher. "Boston Public" is his first regular TV show after honing his craft in experimental theater.

Noted director Steven Soderbergh is confident that Katt will do well in films. "He's absolutely fearless," he declares. "He's a chameleon. No idea is too outrageous for him. He'll try anything!"

Katt's next big move is a role in the upcoming movie, "Full Frontal," where he'll share the screen with no less than Julia Roberts and David Duchovny. Clearly, this young talent is on his way.

Family man

On another Studio 23 show, "Yes, Dear" (8 p.m., Sundays), the young comer to watch out for is Anthony Clark, who's cast as family man Greg Warner in the new sitcom.

Clark is exactly the right talent for a sitcom because he's been making people laugh since his college days. In fact, he won the Top College Comedian Award in 1986. He's also worked extensively as a stand-up comic, and was a regular guest on "Ellen."

Meanwhile, "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," Studio 23's Monday-night treat (at 8 p.m.), casts James Marsters as a peroxide-blond vampire. He's also been seen in "Northern Exposure" and "The House on Haunted Hill."

Accent

His British accent on "Buffy" makes viewers think that Marsters is an import from Europe, but the truth is, he just puts the accent on for the role, and he's a true-blue American—from California, at that.

And he's no pushover in the acting department, either: he's a classically-trained actor who studied at Julliard and the American Conservatory Theater.

A new show on Studio 23, "Dark Angel" (Wednesdays at 8 p.m.), casts Jessica Alba in the title role. The other major character in the series is a wheelchair-bound cyber journalist, and that plum part has been assigned to Michael Weatherly.

Working on the show has brought Alba and Weatherly together—so close, in fact, that they're now engaged! Weatherly's past TV shows include "The Cosby Show" and "Jesse."

Ultimate adventurer

Finally, Phil Keoghan, the intrepid host of Studio 23's "Amazing Race 3" (Thursdays, 7 p.m.), is the ultimate advanturer. He has served as host, producer and cameraman on numerous programs, including "Keoghan's Heroes," his show on the lives of some famous thrill-seekers.

Many of today's biggest film stars have gone the TV route to fame and fortune—Robin Williams on "Mork and Mindy," Tom Hanks on "Bosom Buddies," Jim Carrey on "In Living Color," Bruce Willis and Cybill Shepherd on "Moonlighting."

Which of today's male comers will follow suit? The new stars featured here are some of TV's best bets for "graduation" from the boob tube to the silver screen.

WEATHERLY. Engaged to co-star Jessica Alba.

MARSTERS. Classically- trained actor.

KATT. No idea is too outrageous for him.

How many massages will it take to get you back on your feet?

Let me count the ways

[illegible]

Powder? Lotion? Or Ginseng?

[illegible]

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'MacGyver' to return in younger guise

LOS ANGELES—"MacGyver," the hit US television spy drama in which the hero built bombs using only a Swiss Army knife and a pile of junk, is to return to the small screen in a younger guise, the industry press said last week.

New lease on life

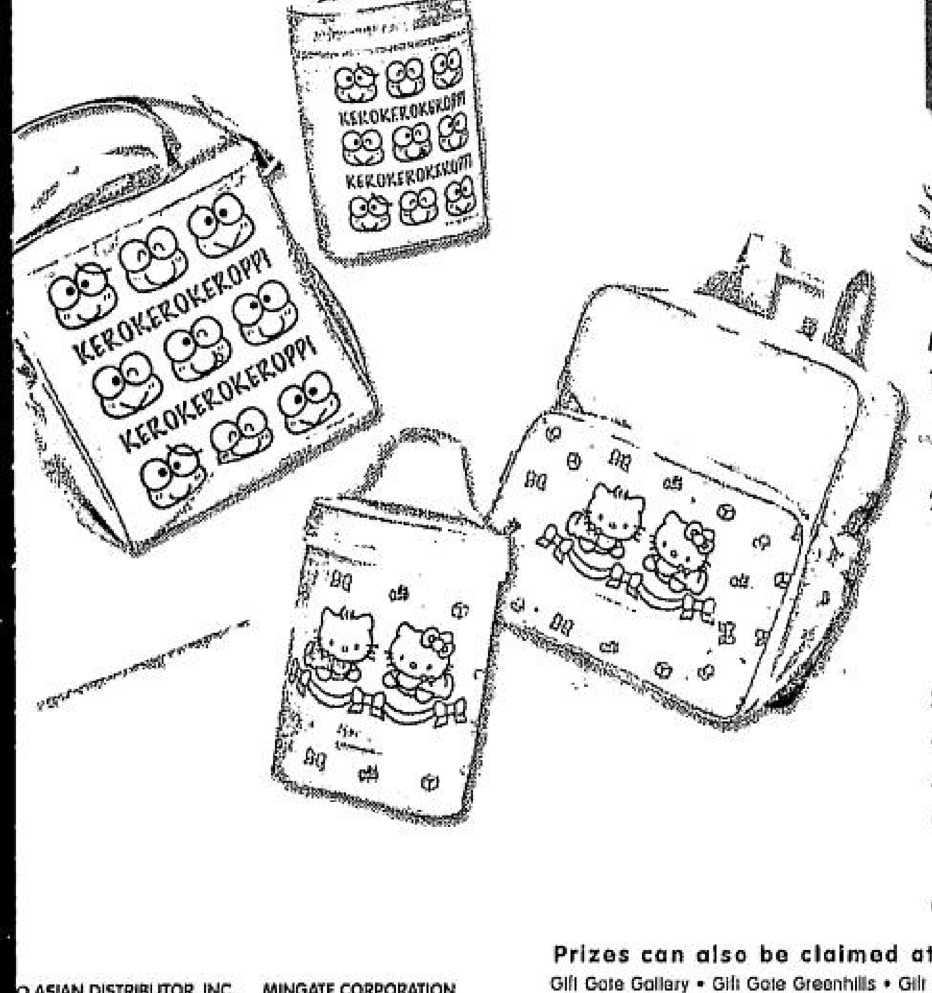
The top-rated 1980s and '90s show, which was syndicated around the globe, will be given a new lease on life by Warners Bros. television network, which is planning a sequel starring the canny spook's young nephew.

WB Television sealed a deal with with Paramount Network Television to run the new show "Young MacGyver" which will be produced by "The Fonz," former "Happy Days" star Henry Winkler and his partners Stephen Downing and John Rich.

The Hollywood industry dailies said that "Young MacGyver" would feature the adventures of MacGyver's nephew who is brought into the fold of the Phoenix Foundation, a "think tank" dedicated to defeating evil across the globe.

Guest star

Richard Dean Anderson, who starred as MacGyver on the original ABC television series—which ran from Sept. 1985 to Aug. 1992—is in talks to reprise his role as a guest star in the show's pilot episode, they said. *AFP*



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Hello Kitty Babies Bottle Bag = 4 points + Php 80
Kerokerokeroppi Bottle Bag = 4 points + Php 80
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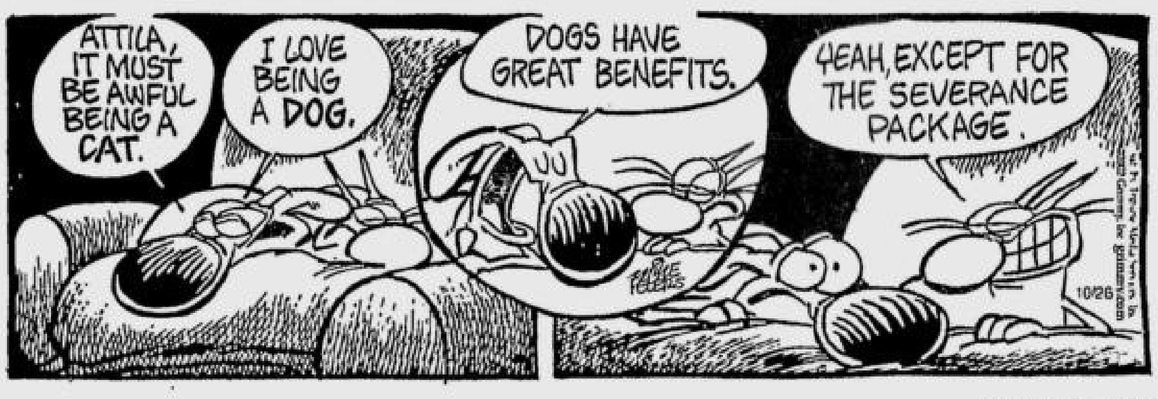
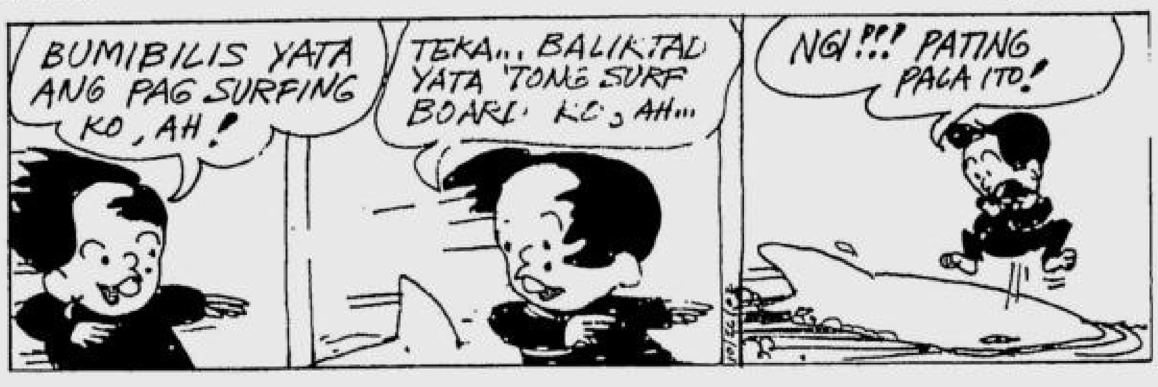
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


ATTILA, IT MUST BE AWFUL BEING A CAT.
I LOVE BEING A DOG.
DOGS HAVE GREAT BENEFITS.
YEAH, EXCEPT FOR THE SEVERANCE PACKAGE.
10/26

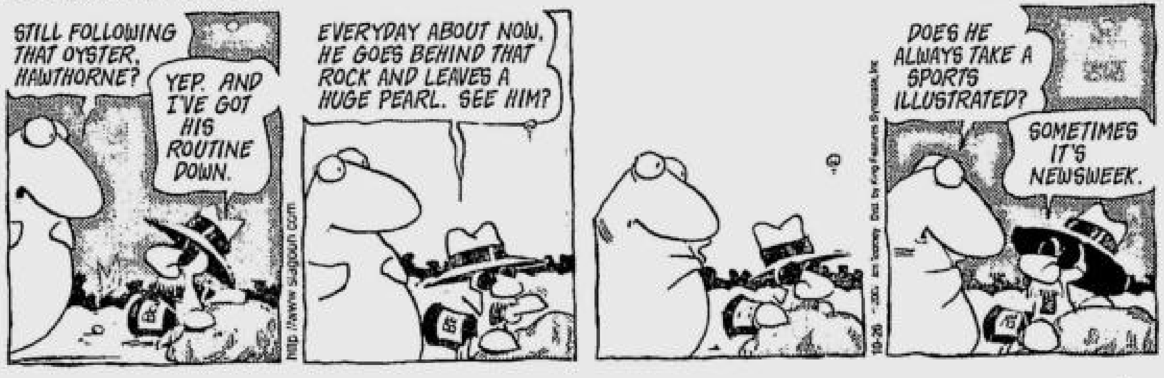
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


BUMIBILIS YATA ANG PAG SURFING KO, AH!
TEKA... BALIKTAD YATA 'TONG SURF BOARD KO, AH...
NGI!?! PATING PALA ITO!

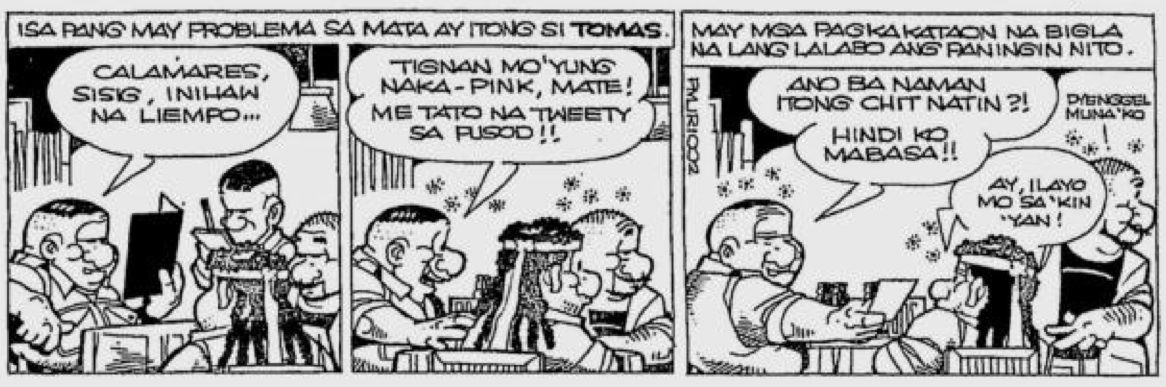
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


STILL FOLLOWING THAT OYSTER, HAWTHORNE?
YEP. AND I'VE GOT HIS ROUTINE DOWN.
EVERYDAY ABOUT NOW, HE GOES BEHIND THAT ROCK AND LEAVES A HUGE PEARL. SEE HIM?
DOES HE ALWAYS TAKE A SPORTS ILLUSTRATED?
SOMETIMES IT'S NEWSWEEK.
http://www.slagoon.com

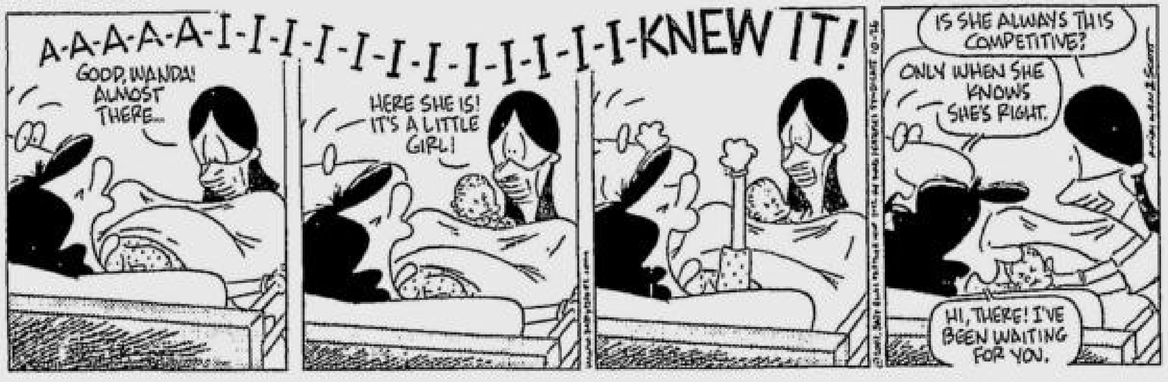
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ISA PANG MAY PROBLEMA SA MATA AY ITONG SI TOMAS.
CALAMARES, SISIG, INIHAW NA LIEMPO...
TIGNAN MO 'YUNG NAKA-PINK, MATE! ME TATO NA TWEETY SA PUSOD!!
MAY MGA PAGKAKATAON NA BIGLA NA LANG LALABO ANG PANINGIN NITO.
ANO BA NAMAN ITONG CHIT NATIN ?!
HINDI KO MABASA!!
DYENGGEL MUNA 'KO
AY, ILAYO MO SA 'KIN 'YAN!
PMJR1002

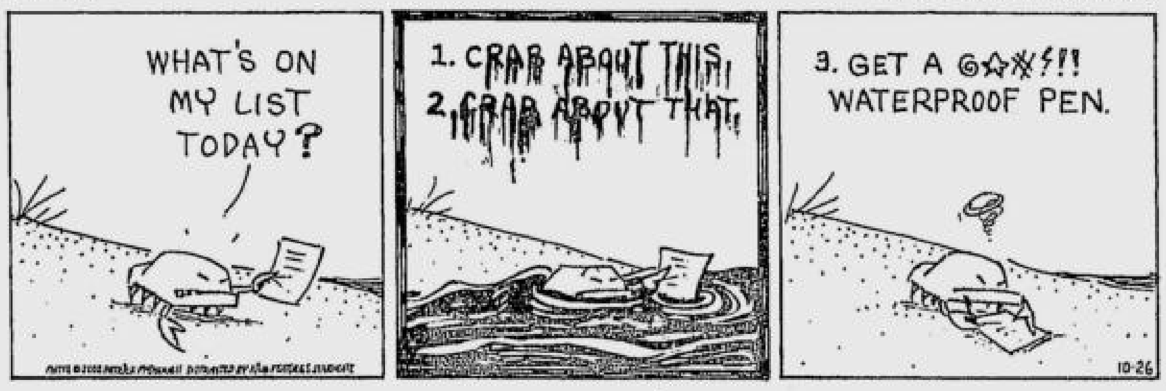
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


A-A-A-A-A-I-I-I-I-I-I-I-I-I-I-I-I-I-KNEW IT!
GOOD, WANDA! ALMOST THERE...
HERE SHE IS! IT'S A LITTLE GIRL!
IS SHE ALWAYS THIS COMPETITIVE?
ONLY WHEN SHE KNOWS SHE'S RIGHT.
HI, THERE! I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.

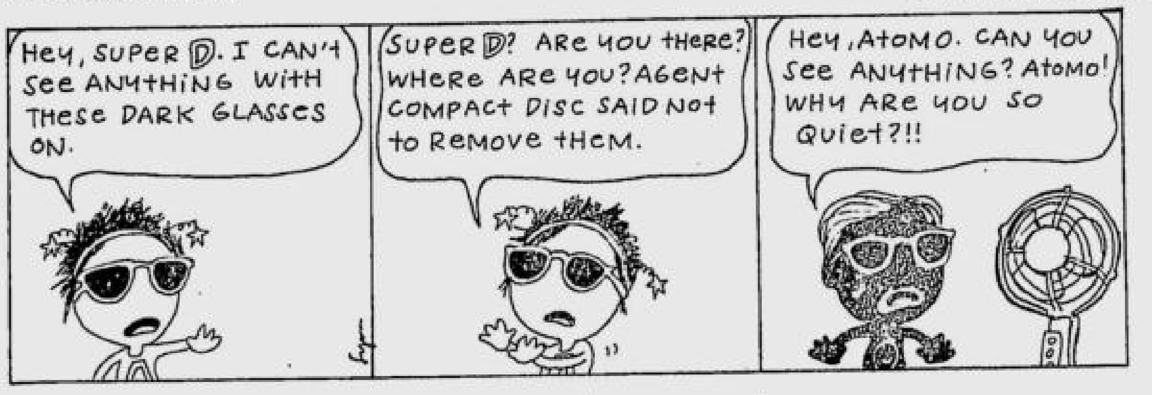
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WHAT'S ON MY LIST TODAY?
1. CRAB ABOUT THIS.
2. CRAB ABOUT THAT.
3. GET A G☆※!!! WATERPROOF PEN.
10-26

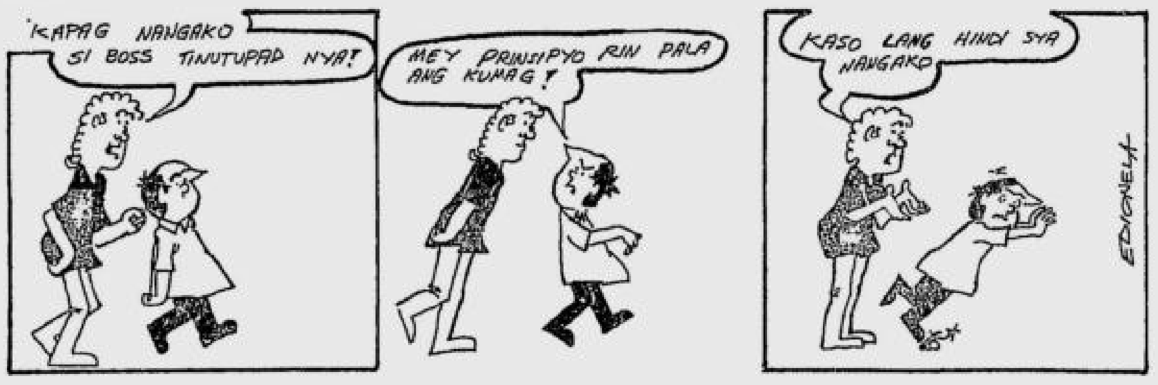
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, SUPER D. I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING WITH THESE DARK GLASSES ON.
SUPER D? ARE YOU THERE? WHERE ARE YOU? AGENT COMPACT DISC SAID NOT TO REMOVE THEM.
Hey, ATOMO. CAN YOU SEE ANYTHING? ATOMO! WHY ARE YOU SO QUIET?!!

SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


KAPAG NANGAKO SI BOSS TINUTUPAD NYA!
MEY PRINSIPYO RIN PALA ANG KUMAG!
KASO LANG HINDI SYA NANGAKO
EDIONELA

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Hillary Clinton, Pat Sajak, Cary Elwes, Bob Hoskins

Happy Birthday: Don't take on too much this year. Take a look around you and decide how much you want to get involved with the groups and organizations trying to solicit your time. You will encounter some challenges this year, but if you take care of the things that matter most, you will do just fine. Your numbers are 11, 19, 25, 33, 37, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Delays or upsets due to transportation difficulties may put a snag in your plans. You should check out various routes ahead of time. Act quickly to meet your deadline.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will get along well with female co-workers. You can join forces to press employers to make necessary changes. Travel or educational pursuits will be rewarding.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will be fatigued if your mate has put you through an emotional wringer. Take some time to reevaluate your motives. What is it that you want from a relationship and a partner?

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You may be feeling a little under the weather, however, depression is likely the cause. Try to figure out what is at the root of your feeling so low. Go out with friends even if they call at the last minute.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Drastic changes in your domestic scene may cause you to reevaluate your motives and needs. Make sure you consider how your home life is affecting other areas of your life. Don't be overly dramatic when dealing with children.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may become a little unraveled if you are confronted with emotional problems that your mate is experiencing. Stay calm and be a good listener. Try to compromise if possible.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can pick up valuable information if you listen. Travel and educational pursuits will lead to new friendships and job opportunities. Keep an open mind and be ready for an exciting new cycle.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may have problems with family members if you refuse to do things their way. Your all-or-nothing attitude may cost you dearly. Compromise and study the possible outcomes before you take action.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't try to make decisions or changes in your personal life. Concentrate instead on your career. Consider taking some courses or getting involved in community organizations.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can delegate work, but be sure you choose the right people for the jobs. There is little room for error at this point. You will be held responsible for any problems that occur.

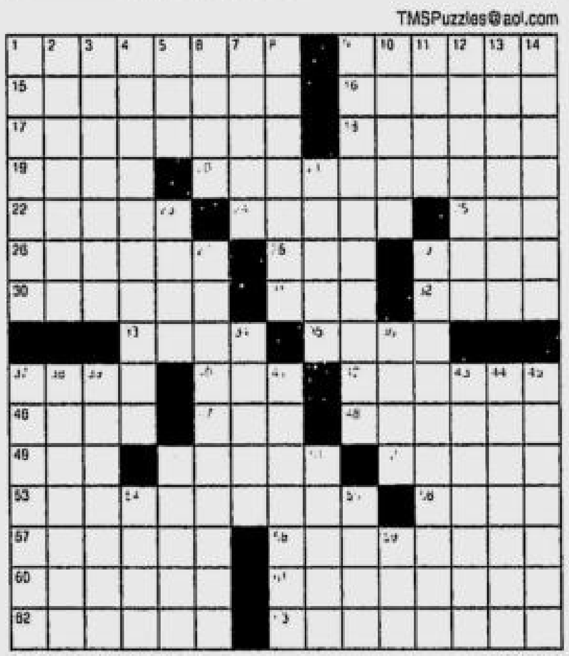
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You should be looking into creative work that will allow you to express yourself. Talk to someone who may be able to help you get started or give you information about freelance work.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Idle time will only lead to problems with others. This is the time to concentrate on yourself. Keep busy and be prepared to experience a new you.

Birthday Baby: You will be emotional, caring and very sensitive. You will be a nurturer always looking out for the ones you love. You will face challenges but only because you create them for yourself.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Matthew Higgins
Concord, NH

10/26/02

ACROSS

1 Crack in rock
9 Most inactive
15 Necessary
16 Subtle shade of meaning
17 Seizing power illegally
18 Examine and expurgate
19 Ruckus
20 Rousing agents
22 Added some shading
24 Hoity-toity people
25 Had a meal
26 Seventh planet
28 College student's fig.
29 "The Sea, the Sea" author Murdoch
30 Agave drink
31 Solidify
32 Run into
33 Fateful date for Caesar
35 Campus bldg.
37 Bring under control
40 Golfer Ernie
42 Cooks with dry heat
46 Slaughter in Cooperstown
47 7 on a sundial
48 Ride the bench
49 Fuss
50 Surrenders formally
52 Alabama city
53 Regain health after illness
56 Actress Dee
57 Suave
58 Frightful
60 Writes in a dull, tedious manner
61 Temperer
62 Woodcutters
63 Like some grapes

DOWN

1 Truncated pyramid
2 Fix up
3 St. Thomas __
4 Dollars and sen
5 Move to a slanting position
6 "Battle Cry" author
7 Landlord's revenue
8 Decorative borders
9 Artificial hatching devices
10 Head-to-head tests
11 Turner of Hollywood
12 Trap
13 Small terrier
14 Most concise
21 Sulked
23 Group of two
27 Like summer dresses
29 Of no real consequence
34 Playground chute
36 French kings
37 Vessels for oolong
38 Pyrenees republic
39 Lunar prismatic arc
41 Mexican naps
43 Possible to explain
44 Performs gymnastic feats
45 Those that remain
50 Chair maker
51 Part of an act
54 Flower holder
55 European sea eagle
59 Cincinnati player

Friday's Puzzle Solved

E	L	B	A	■	S	U	P	T	■	P	E	C	A	N
B	O	O	T	■	A	M	U	R	■	A	T	O	N	E
B	O	X	E	R	F	A	C	E	■	S	H	U	N	S
S	T	Y	■	E	A	S	E	L	■	S	A	G	A	S
■	■	■	H	E	R	S	■	L	I	A	N	A	■	■
N	A	P	O	L	I	■	D	I	N	G	■	R	B	I
A	B	Y	S	S	■	C	A	S	T	E	■	W	E	D
V	A	T	S	■	C	A	M	E	O	■	P	A	L	E
E	T	H	■	D	O	L	E	S	■	F	E	L	L	A
L	F	O	■	E	L	L	S	■	F	L	A	K	E	S
■	■	N	I	S	E	I	■	S	A	U	L	■	■	■
S	T	E	R	E	■	O	P	A	L	S	■	T	U	B
L	A	Y	E	R	■	P	E	R	C	H	W	I	F	E
A	R	E	N	T	■	E	R	G	O	■	E	N	O	S
B	A	S	E	S	■	S	E	E	N	■	N	E	S	T

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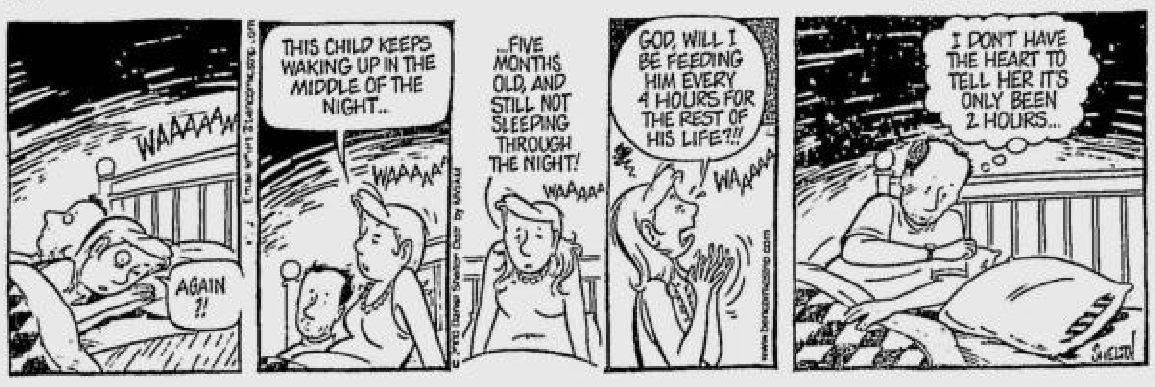
10/25/02

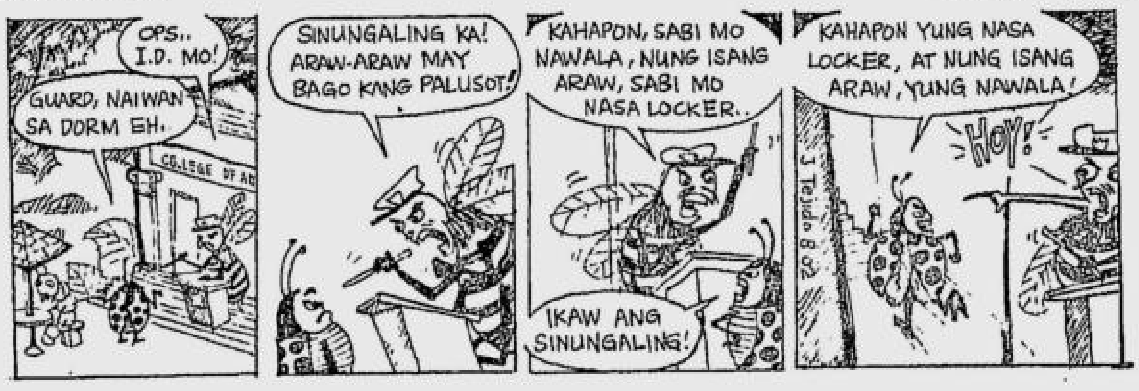
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WAAAAAW
AGAIN ?!
THIS CHILD KEEPS WAKING UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT..
WAAAAA
...FIVE MONTHS OLD, AND STILL NOT SLEEPING THROUGH THE NIGHT!
WAAAAA
GOD, WILL I BE FEEDING HIM EVERY 4 HOURS FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE?!!
WAAAAA
I DON'T HAVE THE HEART TO TELL HER IT'S ONLY BEEN 2 HOURS...
www.benscomicstrip.com

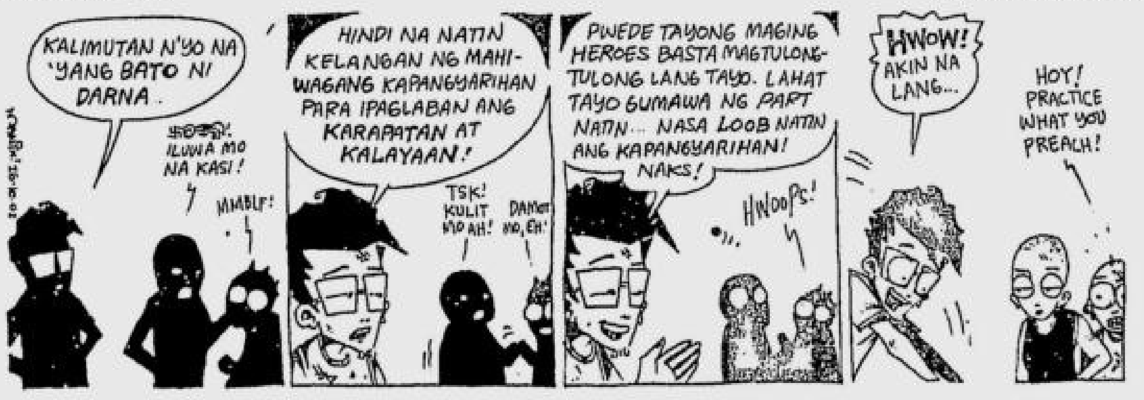
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


OPS.. I.D. MO!
GUARD, NAIWAN SA DORM EH.
COLLEGE OF AR
SINUNGALING KA! ARAW-ARAW MAY BAGO KANG PALUSOT!
KAHAPON, SABI MO NAWALA, NUNG ISANG ARAW, SABI MO NASA LOCKER..
IKAW ANG SINUNGALING!
KAHAPON YUNG NASA LOCKER, AT NUNG ISANG ARAW, YUNG NAWALA!
HOY!
J Tejido 8 02

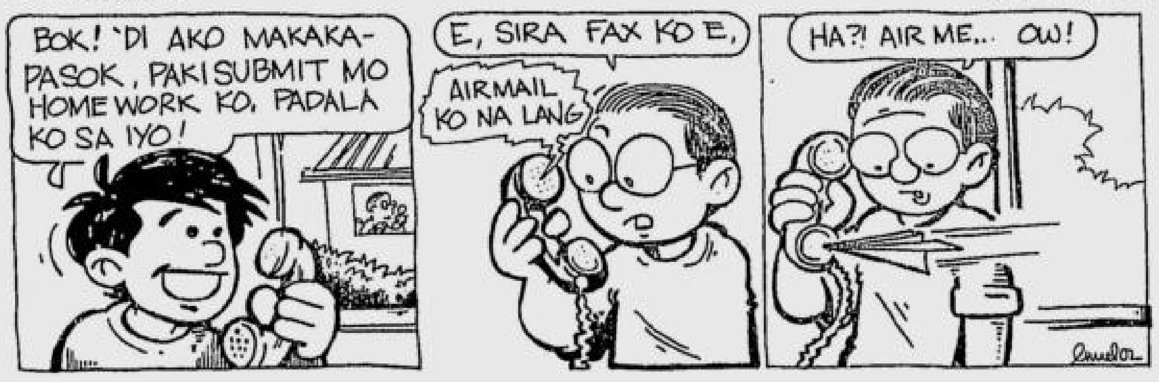
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


KALIMUTAN N'YO NA 'YANG BATO NI DARNA.
SORRY. ILUWA MO NA KASI!
MMBLF!
HINDI NA NATIN KELANGAN NG MAHIWAGANG KAPANGYARIHAN PARA IPAGLABAN ANG KARAPATAN AT KALAYAAN!
TSK! KULIT MO AH!
DAMOT MO, EH!
PWEDE TAYONG MAGING HEROES BASTA MAGTULONG-TULONG LANG TAYO. LAHAT TAYO GUMAWA NG PART NATIN... NASA LOOB NATIN ANG KAPANGYARIHAN! NAKS!
HWOOPS!
HWOW! AKIN NA LANG...
HOY! PRACTICE WHAT YOU PREACH!

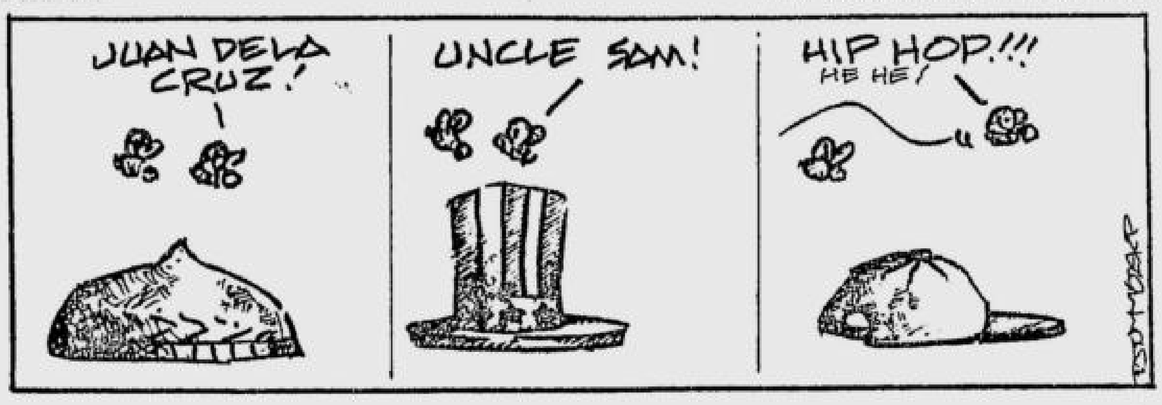
GENG'S GAMES

BY AMIEL RUFO


BOK! 'DI AKO MAKAKAPASOK, PAKI SUBMIT MO HOMEWORK KO, PADALA KO SA IYO!
E, SIRA FAX KO E,
AIRMAIL KO NA LANG
HA?! AIR ME... OW!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


JUAN DELA CRUZ!
UNCLE SAM!
HIP HOP!!!
HE HE!

Santana's new album aims to prove that 'Supernatural' was no fluke

By Richard Benke

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico—Carlos Santana would like to help heal a wounded world.

That's what his new CD, "Shaman," is about.

Unity and harmony

"Shamans heal with music and herbs," he says. "You have Buddha, Krishna, Allah, Rama, Jehovah , . . they all want unity and harmony on this planet, all of them. That's the message: unity and harmony and transform your fear."

The follow-up to Santana's hugely successful "Supernatural," "Shaman," is one of the year's most anticipated albums. Like its predecessor, which won nine Grammys and sold 25 million copies, it's loaded with guest artists and a blend of musical styles.

There's blues, jazz, Latin, hip-hop and classical. There's the early hit single, "The Game of Love," with 19-year-old pop star Michelle Branch, and the startling "Novus," with tenor Placido Domingo.

In the 40-plus years since Santana played mariachi as a boy in Mexico, he has built a style that weaves such varied elements and makes them distinctively his.

Openness

His openness to such collaboration evolved through a spiritual process, he says, some of it coming to him in 1997 or 1998 after the death of his father, a violinist.

As a boy, Carlos had first wanted to play saxophone, but taking up the guitar could hardly be called a mistake. Nor could his move as a teenager to San Francisco, where he and his wife of many years still live. They have three children.

In the 1960s, the Bay Area offered every kind of music, and promoter Bill Graham's Fillmore West, which put much of it onstage, was more than a music Mecca.

"This was my alma mater, man. Fillmore West is where I learned to articulate," Santana said in an interview in Albuquerque during his "Shaman" tour.

SANTANA. Combines passion for music with a very spiritual philosophy.

In San Francisco, Santana's roots in the blues of Lightning Hopkins, Jimmy Reed, John Lee Hooker, T-Bone Walker and B.B. King took a sharp turn with the jazz influences of Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Herbie Hancock, Wayne Shorter, Gabor Szabo and the majestic chord architecture of Gil Evans, among others.

"You're being taught multidimensional, intergalactic music," he says.

Never mind one-two-three-four.

Headaches

"I used to get headaches listening to Coltrane's music because my brain was thinking: How and where is one?" Santana says, admitting he's still a little intimidated by jazz. It's the ocean, he said, and "I hang around a lake. The ocean's too deep for me."

But now and then he breathes salt air into his music.

Clive Davis, who signed Santana to his first record deal with Columbia back in 1969, reteamed with him on Arista's "Supernatural," bringing Santana to a new generation of fans after years out of the limelight.

They used the same blueprint on "Shaman," and hope to prove that "Supernatural" was no fluke, says Davis, one of three executive producers on the album, with Santana and Antonio "L.A." Reid.

"We never expected this thing would explode the way it did," Davis says by phone from New York. The prospect of repeating "Supernatural's" success is "even more daunting."

Back on Santana's early hit album "Abraxas," in 1970, which featured "Oye, Como Va" and "Black Magic Woman," Davis says, "Carlos was young. He was fiery. His guitar blazed. He was dazzling."

Now, Davis says, "his guitar still dazzles. I think he has grown as a human being. He is very inspirational. He combines his passion for music with a very spiritual philosophy of humanistic principles."

If "Shaman" can repeat "Supernatural's" success, Davis says, it would show that "music can transcend age boundaries and perpetuate careers."

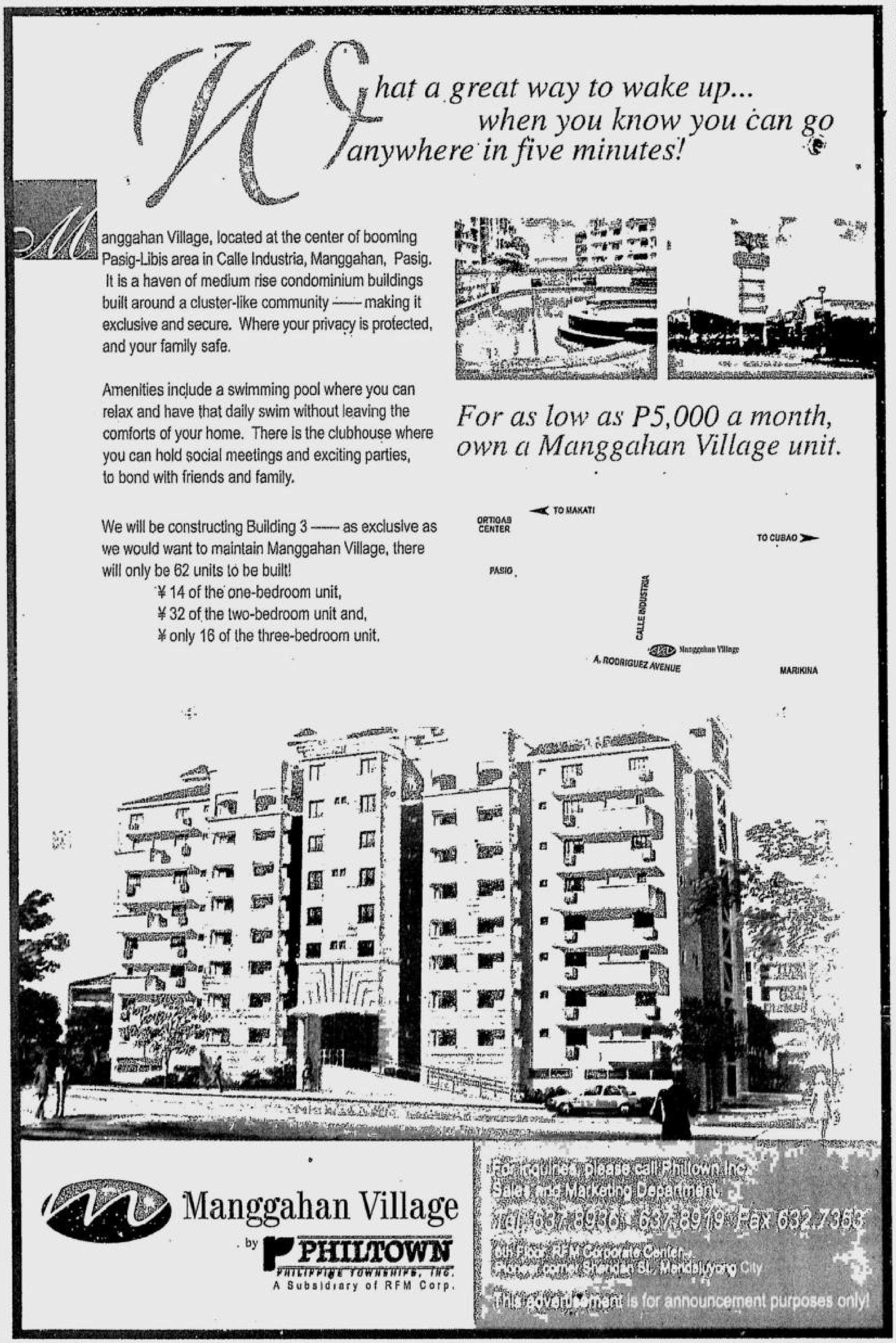
International borders

Santana, 55, also wants to show that music can transcend international borders—he cites the work of Harry Belafonte, Louis Armstrong and Dizzy Gillespie as good-will ambassadors, and says he would like to travel to Africa someday with musicians to help the poor—and spiritual divides.

"This new message with 'Shaman' is to invite people to embrace their divinity."

Santana recalls lecturing at a music school in Boston.

"They started asking me all these questions, and I said, all I know is that in one note you're supposed to put five things in it—soul, heart, mind, body, cojones. One note. If you don't put those five things in that note, I don't care how much music you know, man, I'm not going to feel it . . . We're on this planet. Make me feel human. Make me feel spirit. Make me feel sacredly and sensually divine." *AP*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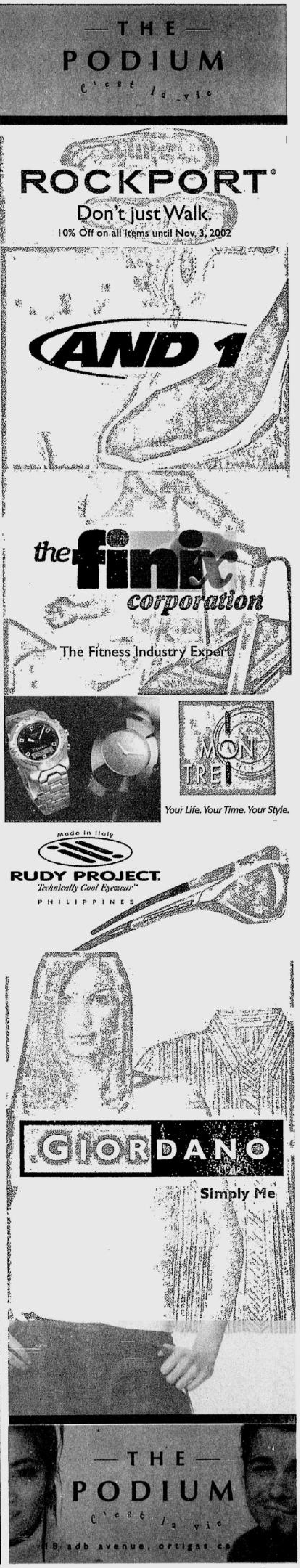
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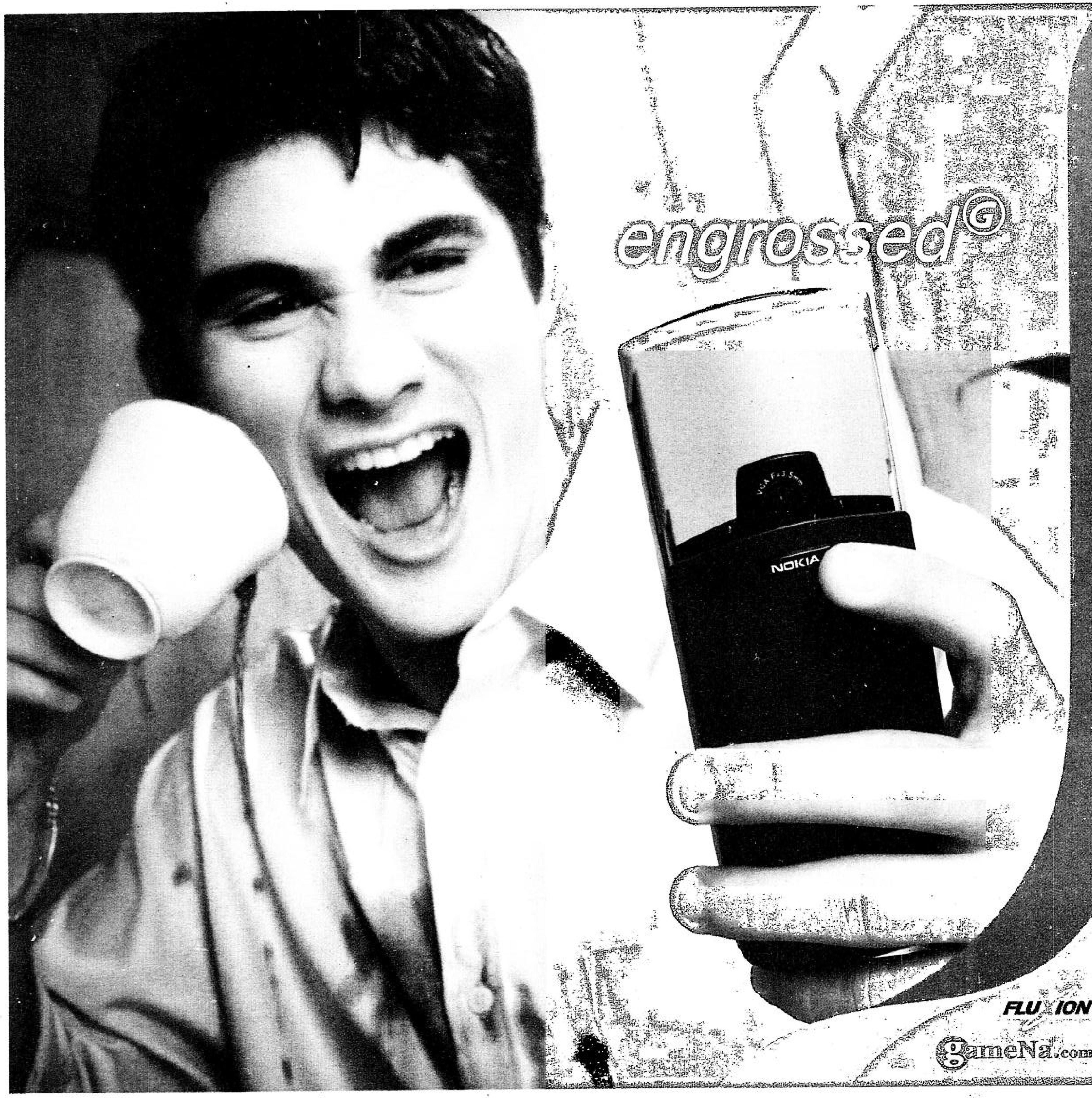

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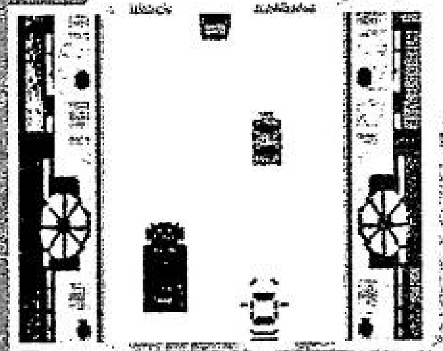

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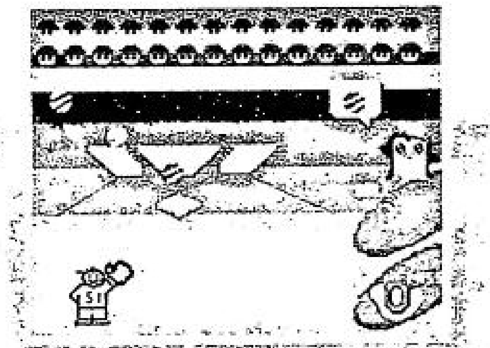
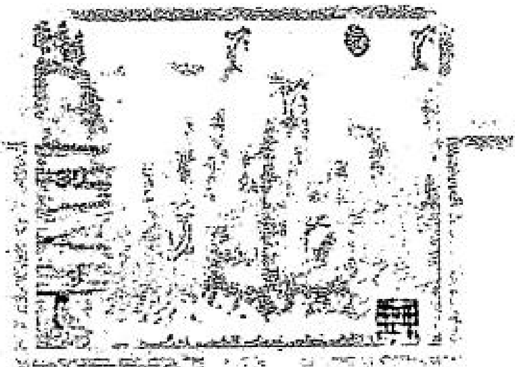


PLAY CATCH
Sharpen your catching [illegible]



RED HERRING
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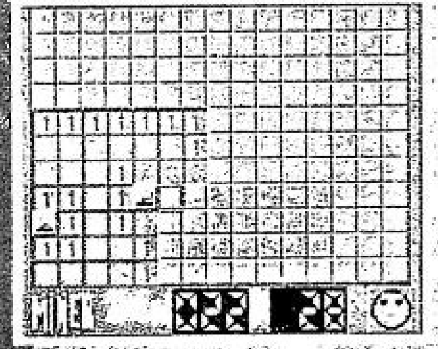
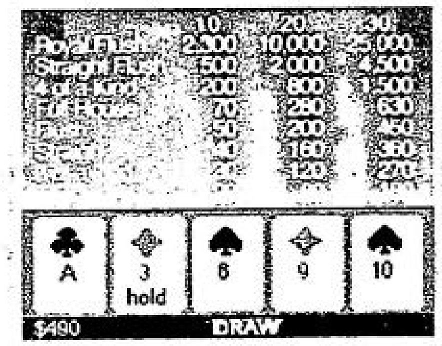
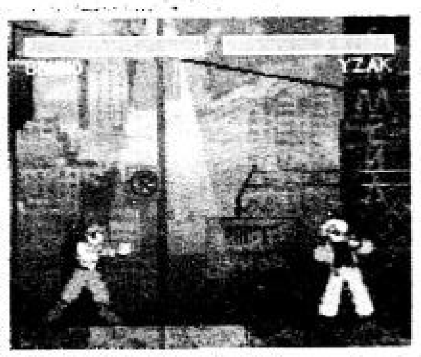


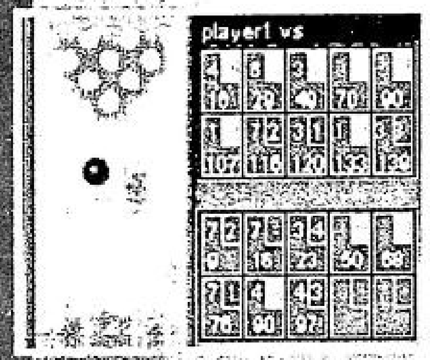
MINER
You're a miner out for treasure, but [illegible]



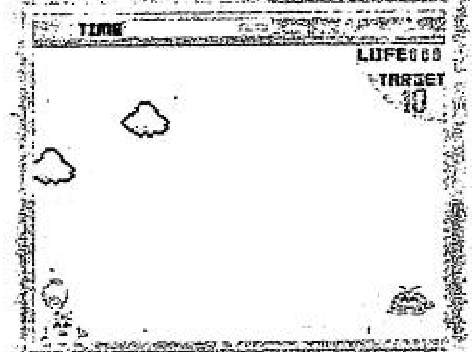
VIDEO POKER
Go for a valid poker combination from the randomly dealt cards.



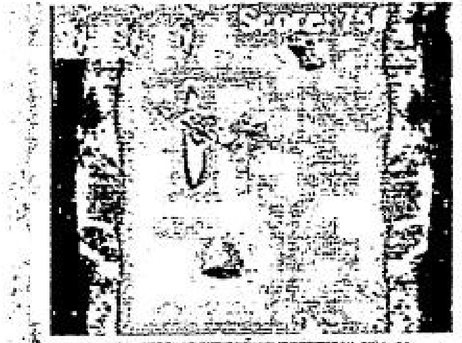
STREET BRAWL
Help [illegible] the town hero fend off the bad guys [illegible]



BOWLING
[illegible] coordination [illegible]



BALLOON DROP
Race against time as you try to catch balloons [illegible]



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Test your kayaking skills [illegible] down the stream [illegible] the obstacles.

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SATURDAY Special

Greg Kinnear's career takes a seamy turn

KINNEAR. Disturbing sense of emptiness.

By Mark Kennedy

NEW YORK—Before they portray real people, actors often try connecting with their characters by peering at moldy TV footage, listening to radio broadcasts or reading biographies.

For Greg Kinnear's latest role, it was watching porn.

To tackle TV actor Bob Crane—the "Hogan's Heroes" star with a real-life predilection for videotaping his sexual conquests—Kinnear squirmed through several of the actor's, uh, home movies.

Grimace

"A little goes a long way," Kinnear says with a grimace. "Quite frankly, I didn't need to see that much. There was a very disturbing sense of emptiness."

Kinnear's starring role in "Auto Focus" represents the darkest move yet for the former talk show host, who began his film career with fluffy comedies.

The new movie focuses on

GREG/ D6

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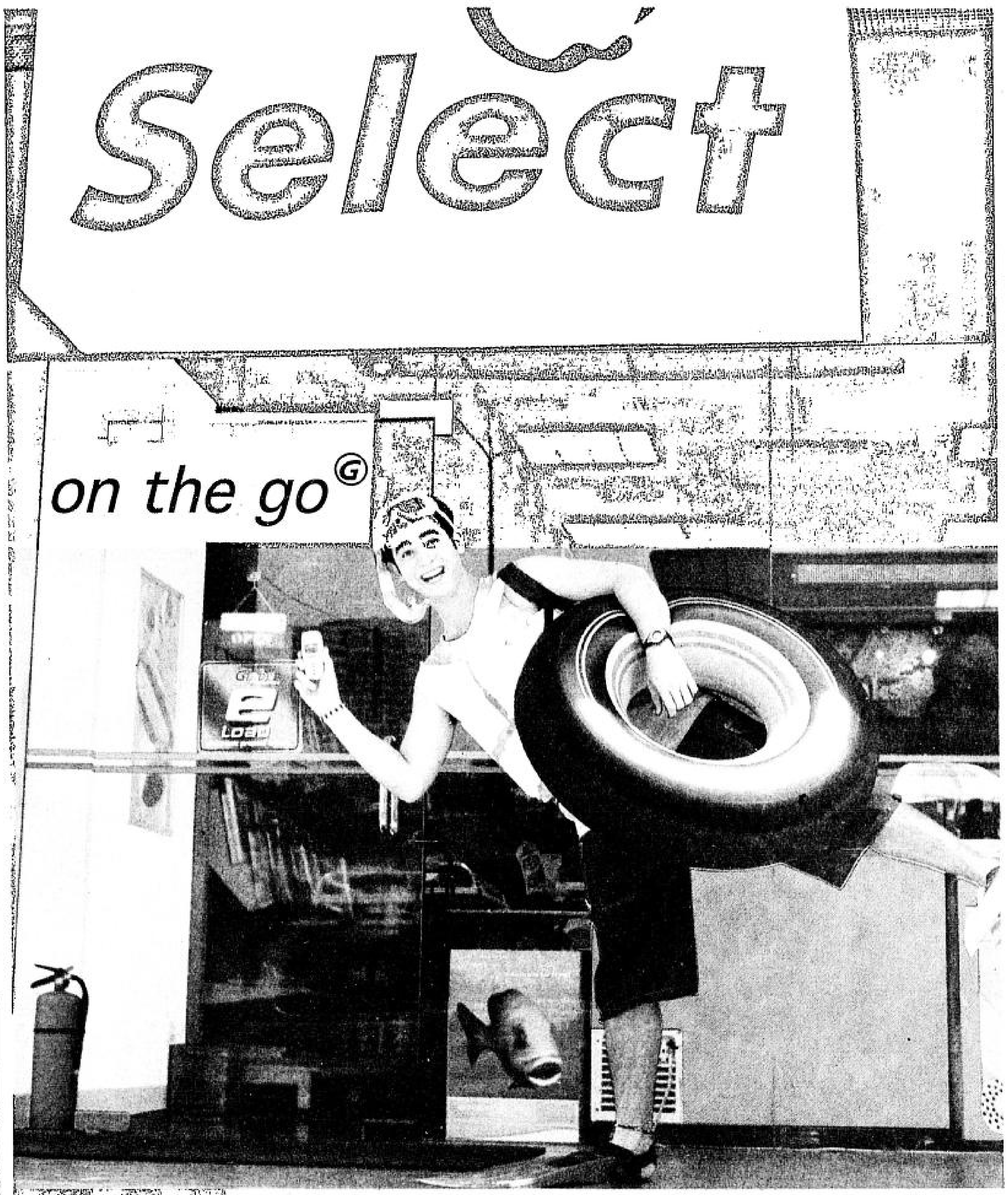

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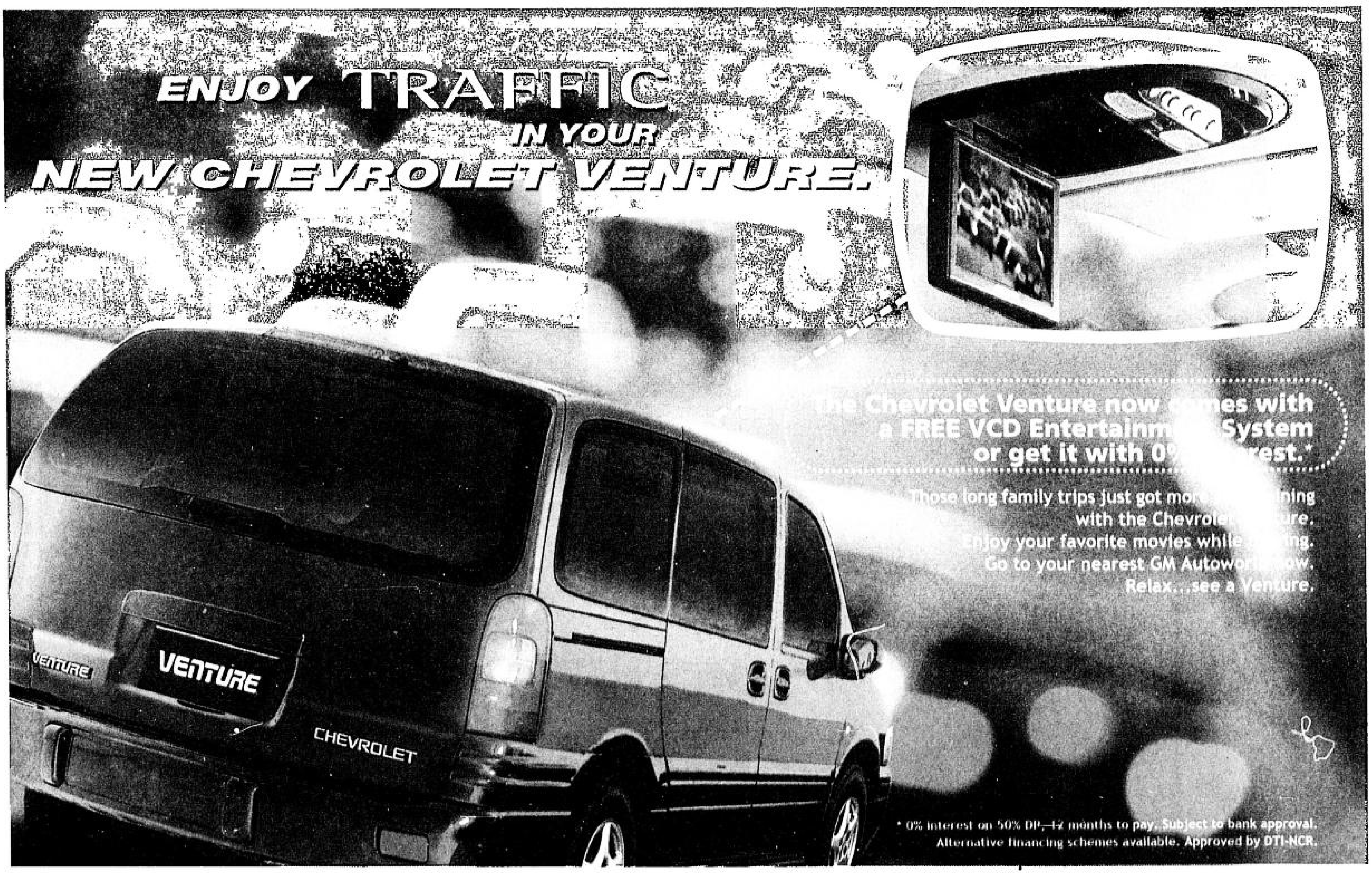

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'Mga Munting Tinig' starts Manila run

By Nestor U. Torre

THE "LITTLE film that could," Gil M. Portes' "Mga Munting Tinig," is currently playing in town, winning adherents *and* dissenters as it tells its simple story about a young teacher. (Alessandra De Rossi) who defies the usual cynicism and defeatism to inspire her impoverished young students. She motivates them to rise about the culture of failure that surrounds them—and threatens to drag them down, as it has their parents and the generations before them.

Flaws and excesses

On the plus side, we appreciate the movie's simplicity, its decision to deal with a topic that most other filmmakers would dismiss as "uncommercial," and its depiction of the flaws and excesses of some members of the teaching profession.

With teachers like these, is it any wonder that so many of our students are deficient, not just in knowledge, but also in analytical ability—and, most especially, the capacity to dream, *and* to do what it takes to realize those dreams?

Sure, the production is reminiscent of similarly small and focused Chinese movies along the same lines, but it occasionally manages to particularize and localize the format in interesting and insightful ways.

Lack of hope

First, it clearly shows how the parents' lack of hope and the teachers' lazy and opportunistic ways poison not just the young students' present, but even more sadly, their future.

Second, there's that telling image of the single school uniform that's shared by two brothers. It's a heartbreaking image of penury that helps compensate for the movie's less enlightened or enlightening aspects.

These include a rather hortatory, simplistic script and plot progression, deficient in terms of context and complexity. Issues are pared down too closely to the bone for them to acquire the texture and resonance they need to become full-blown human experiences that can move audiences beyond intellection, and into action.

Deficient

Alessandra De Rossi is palpably too young to play the young teacher. In terms of integration of elements, the film is similarly, deficient—most significantly, in its treatment of its NPA subplot.

In addition, too many of the children are played by the usual slick, goodlooking TV-film child actors, who can't blend into the movie's impoverished and provincial milieu. This also goes for their parents, who are played by Manila-based actors. They may be good thespians, but they don't look and act like *probinsiyanos*.

Despite these flaws, however, "Mga Munting Tinig" remains a potent viewing experience because its virtues are so strong that they continue to be valid and vivid in the face of its limitations or deficiencies. Portes' movie has significant things to say, to students, parents and teachers alike, and it behooves us all to listen.

DE ROSSI (left), Irma Adlawan and Malou Crisologo play teachers in Portes' movie.

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Words to live by

Lotus Pond
R. Valencia and S. Bismark

SOME words agitate us; others calm us. Some words depress us, while others bring meaning into our lives. Here are some words from the ancient book Bhagavadgita, which bring light into this dreary world:

Full knowledge

"One is understood to be in full knowledge whose every endeavor is devoid of desire for sense gratification. He is said by sages to be a worker for whom the reactions of work have been burned up by the fire of perfect knowledge. 4.19

"One who works in devotion (to the Supreme), who is a pure soul, and who controls his mind and senses is dear to everyone, and everyone is dear to him. Though always working, such a man is never entangled. 5.7

"One who performs his duty without attachment, surrendering the results unto the Supreme Lord, is unaffected by sinful action, as the lotus leaf is untouched by water. 5.10

"When one's intelligence, mind, faith, and refuge are all fixed in the Supreme, then one becomes fully cleansed of misgivings through complete knowledge and thus proceeds straight on the path of liberation. 5.17

"A person who neither rejoices upon achieving something pleasant nor laments upon obtaining something unpleasant, who is self-intelligent, who is unbewildered, and who knows the science of God, is already situated in transcendence. 5.20

Unlimited happiness

"Such a liberated person is not attracted to material sense pleasures but is always in trance, enjoying the pleasure within. In this way the self-realized person enjoys unlimited happiness, for he concentrates on the supreme. 5.21

"An intelligent person does not take part in the sources of misery, which are due to contact with the material senses. Such pleasures have a beginning and an end, and so the wise man does not delight in them. 5.22

"Before giving up this present body, if one is able to tolerate the urges of the material senses and check the force of desire and anger, he is well situated and is happy in this world. 5.23

"One whose happiness is within, who is active and rejoices within, and whose aim is inward is actually the perfect mystic. He is liberated in the Supreme, and ultimately he attains the Supreme. 5.24

"Those who are free from anger and all material desires, who are self-realized, self-disciplined and constantly endeavoring for perfection, are assured of liberation in the Supreme in the very near future. 5.26

Manggas pa lang,
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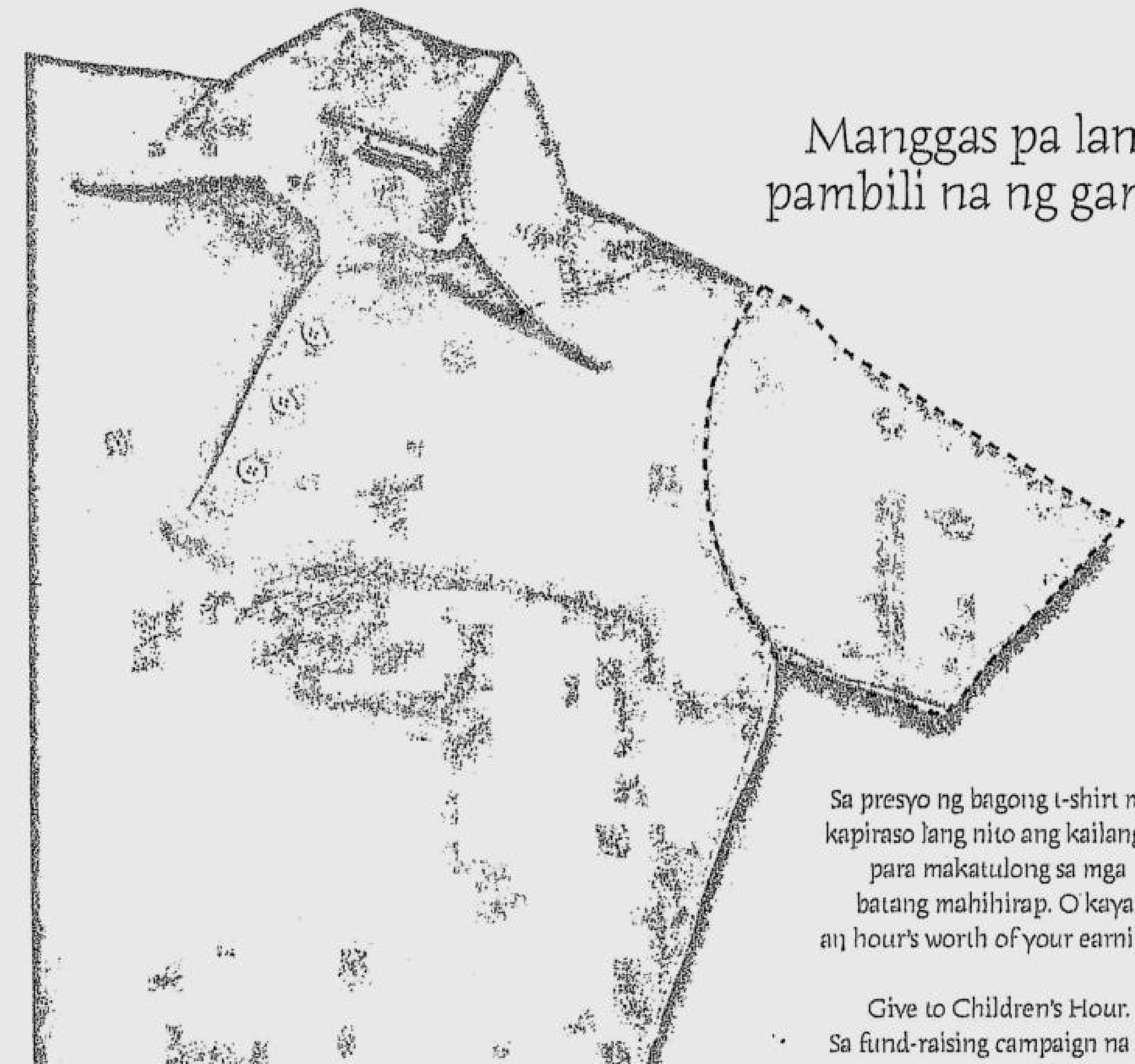

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SWITCHING CHANNELS

Vina Morales performs at Folk Arts tonight

By Edmund L. Sicam

THE FOLK Arts Theater is a major proving ground for musical artists who want to test their popularity. As the song goes, "If you can make it here, you'll make it anywhere." Today, Vina Morales will find out if she has what it takes to fill up the huge venue by the bay. Her first-ever major show "Vina Revealed" goes onstage at 8 p.m. at the FAT.

To help her generate big crowds, Maximedia International, the show's producer, has pulled out all the stops to attract an audience. The lowest-priced ticket to the show is only P50, lower than some movie tickets, and the best seats are going for P600. For additional star value, concert biggies Martin Nievera and Gary Valenciano are guesting on the show along with Powerboys and Whiplash.

In the final analysis, the biggest reason for watching the show will be Vina herself. She has lined up a powerful repertoire, such as the latest hits of J. Lo, Mandy Moore, Michelle Branch, Janet Jackson, Pink and a string of her OPM love tunes. The singer/actress, who celebrated her birthday early this month, has only one wish today—that she does not disappoint the many fans who are expected to see her perform.

Vina is still basking in the success of her recent tour in the US and Canada where she was the front act for Martin. Thousands of Fil-Ams applauded her performance and cheered as she sang her hits and danced onstage.

Early this year, she performed with the Hunks in Hawaii and Guam. Here at home, she recently waxed a new album "Reflections" with the carrier single "Aangkin sa Puso Ko."

MORALES. Powerful repertoire.

Suburbia's special shows

Suburbia, located at 1718 Adriatico corner Alonzo sts., has lined up big-name performers as a fitting climax for the month.

Concert favorite Freestyle starts the week's festivities on Oct. 28. Then on Oct. 29, Aiza Seguerra will sing her runaway hits as well as other cuts from her album, plus other mellow numbers.

It's the turn of South Border on Oct. 30 as they rock the night away with their upbeat tunes. Capping Suburbia's hit list are the Sexbomb girls, who will perform on Oct. 31.

Next month, Suburbia will offer more special shows featuring Parokya ni Edgar, Candy Pangilinan, Malik back-to-back with Nina and the Essence band. Not to be missed at the end of the month is the homecoming concert of Side A after their US tour. Call 450-1685.

Aegis at Hard Rock

The rock band Aegis will perform in a special concert "Aegis Hits Hard Rock Café" today. The five-man band is responsible for such OPM hits as "Luha," "Sinta,"

VINA/ D3

TWO FOR THE SHOW

After donning a gown, Aiza Seguerra now plays a man

By Mary Ann Bautista and Ricky T. Gallardo

AIZA Seguerra is currently in the thick of rehearsals for the Manila staging of "The Rocky Horror Show," where she is playing, not just one, but two characters.

"I'm really elated to play Eddie and Mr. Scott, and yes, they're both male characters," she says, realizing what her new move will elicit in terms of controversy.

"*Katatapos ko lang mag*-gown *sa* concert, and now, boy *naman ako. Ang sarap* to take on roles!" she exclaims.

Aiza's aware of people's speculations about her sexuality, but, "Honestly, it's no longer an issue. I love myself, who I am. I'm happy, and there are endless possibilities for me to become a better person. That's more important than people's perceptions."

Seguerra has also launched her Christmas album, "25th of December." The former child wonder turned hitmaker never seems to run out of surprises to offer!

SEGUERRA. Endless possibilities.

Parokya ni Edgar brings smiles to Bacolod

We caught Parokya ni Edgar recently in Bacolod City in connection with the launching of Smart PureText 100 and we were awed by the band's charisma.

The SRO crowd at St. La Salle University knew every line of their songs and sang unabashedly with vocalists Chito Miranda and Vinci Montaner.

We reckon that it's the bandmates' sincerity, spontaneity and straightforward compositions that have won them so many fans through the years.

Martin's winning streak continues

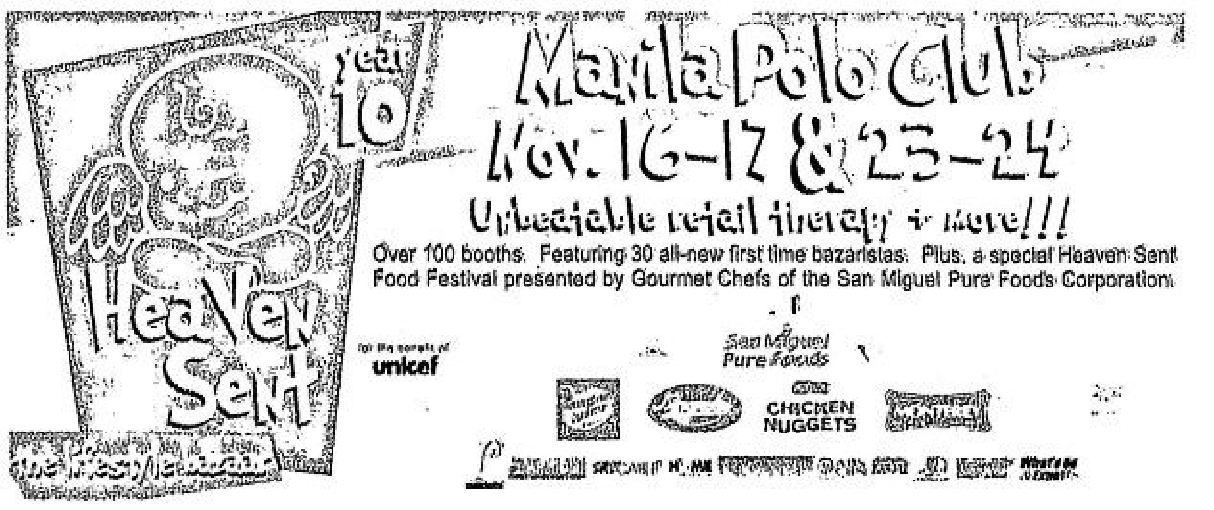
Martin Nievera's Opening Night concert series at Onstage Theater has been packing in the crowds, prompting the producers to book Nievera for another repeat soon. Then there's his new CD from MCA Universal, "Chasing Time," which has reached gold status.

We've listened to the CD and love it. In particular, we like George Canseco's love song, "Nasaan Ka Man," Ricky Sanchez's "Habang Ikaw Ay Narito," and "Sana," by Andrei Estrada. And of course, there's the novelty of having four cuts of Brian McKnight songs in the album.

Bobby Yan's new venture

Bobby Yan's latest venture is Fry This!, a business conceptualized by his late brother Rico and some college friends including Michelle Chang, Eric Lim, Joel Tuquib and Emer Lim.

The group recently launched this new concept, which aims to provide consumers a healthier way of eating fried snack items. Fry This! uses oil that is non-cholesterol and made from 100-percent vegetable fat.



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ANG 4. (Clockwise from top) Isay Alvarez, Bimbo Cerrudo, Pinky Marquez, Dyords Javier.

Ano B'Ang4 Halloween?

Ang4 makes spirits soar on Halloween

GEAR up for Halloween with the Anfourgettables in "Ano B'ANG4 Halloween?" The two-hour show and dance party features Pinky Marquez, Dyords Javier, Isay Alvarez and Bimbo Cerrudo as they perform a repertoire highlighting the creative fusion of musical genres in four-part harmony.

Dance the night away on Oct. 30 and 31 at the Zillion Bar, 4th level, Robinsons Galleria at 9 p.m. There's a raffle lined up, plus scariest costume and best dance pair prizes.

Call 373-4215. This event is for the benefit of the Special Children's Productivity Center, Inc., an organization dedicated to the livelihood development of mentally handoicapped but work-capable children.

Vina Morales . . .

From page D2

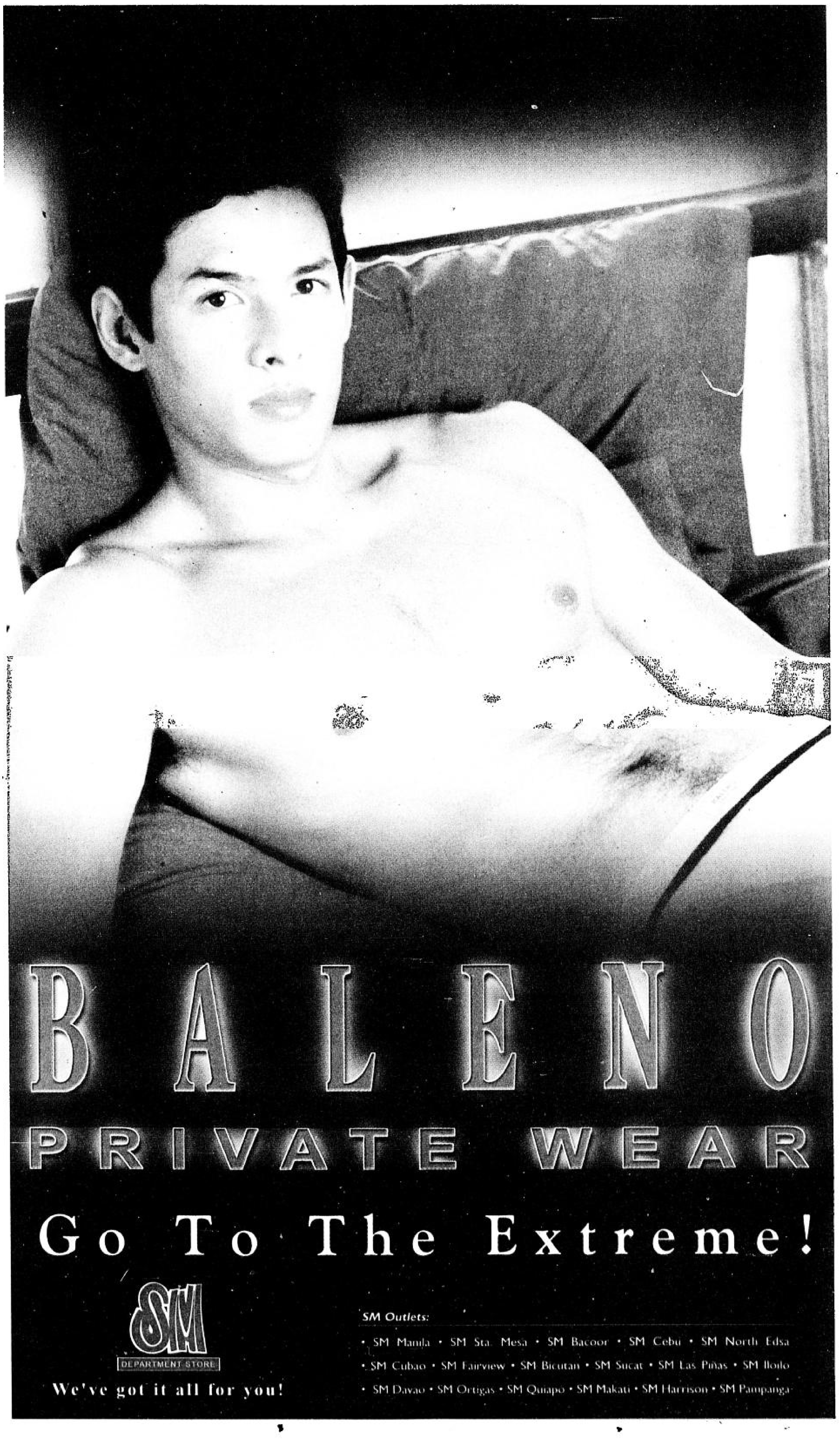
and "Halik."

The group will perform not only their OPM hits but also some of today's hottest charttoppers. Call 285-1086.

Aleck Bovick's new film

Sexy star Aleck Bovick is back in familiar territory as a native girl whose livelihood depends on the *balinsasayaw* birds and their edible nests in Coron, Palawan. She is pursued by a native (Joko Diaz) but her heart beats for a *balikbayan* (Gary Estrada).

This is Aleck's third film. After doing a supporting role in "Kaulayaw," she landed her first leading appearance in "Tampisaw.' That movie must have done well at the box office for her to be given this new assignment.



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Hollywood stars play the name and fame game

By Behn Cervantes

HOLLYWOOD has long been notorious for spicing up the mundane with glamour, and the ordinary with exotica. It often begins with the names of actors—after all, how would a name like John Smith shine brightly up there on the marquee? It wouldn't fire the imagination of the prospective moviegoers as a name like Tab Hunter or Val Kilmer would, right?

Challenge

Of course, there *was* an actor who took up the challenge of being known as John Smith, but do you remember his last film? He and his career have gone with the wind.

Hollywood is all the more glamorous because of the presence of stars whose names carry with them some sexual connotation or infer glamour. How can you miss the hidden meaning in Rip Torn? Or, the masculinity in a name like Rock Hudson?

How about the old-age respectability in Anthony Curtis, who in time opted to be known merely as Tony Curtis, certainly closer to his Brooklyn background? Hollywood has had a penchant for names like Van, as in Johnson and Heflin, or Kim, as in Hunter, Catrall and Novak.

Original

Ava was an original. Who would dare follow in her footsteps? There has been many an Elizabeth but when we say Liz, we know it is the violet-eyed screen goddess Taylor. Grace is Kelly and Audrey is Hepburn.

However, Hollywood publicists were not satisfied with merely glamorizing names, and often altered the ordinary biographies of beautiful Hollywood upstarts. All of a sudden, a new actor had a fabulous background, some historical link to a famous figure, or participated in a life-changing event. Piper Laurie couldn't be very ordinary, could she? Publicists worked hard to add sheen, brio and mystery to their prospective stars' image That was their job.

And the gimmicks were abetted by the actors themselves. Together with their publicists, they conspired to come up with stories that would make them more interesting and exciting.

Mystery

For example, swashbuckler Errol Flynn, not satisfied with his Robin Hood image, enriched by his Earl of Essex reputation and Don Juan fame, constantly added more mystery to his Tasmanian background. According to his autobiography, he had real-life adventures that would have put many of his reel feats to shame.

For example, he claims to have been chased by angry Muslims down the pier of Manila when he came for a brief visit. Muslims in the pier of Manila in the '30s?

He also claimed he worked for American Intelligence agencies, when there is evidence that his reckless sense of adventure coupled with naivete may have been exploited by German spies instead! However, being known as a carefree fellow, all that mess went with the territory.

TAYLOR. Screen goddess.

FLYNN. Adventurer.

Even when drugs were alien to most of the world, Errol went in like Flynn and was already using them, according to former roommate David Niven. He also had a yen for underage jail bait.

Anna Kashfi was embraced by Hollywood producers and movie fans around the world as a captivating beauty who was part-English and part-Indian. For this reason, she was often dressed in a sari and looked like a million rupees. She was so exotic that Hollywood's resident hunk Marlon Brando, wooed then married her.

Divorce

The marriage ended up in a bitter divorce squabble that revealed that she wasn't an exotic Indian, after all. Nothing much has been heard from her since, except that she has had a mental breakdown, consultations with various psychiatrists and imposed rests in mental institutions.

Unlike fellow Tasmanian Errol who liked to make up wild tales, Merle Oberon, the beguiling beauty of "Wuthering Heights" kept a secret till the day she died.

Cinematographers loved closing up on her face, so entranced were they by her exotic looks, dark eyes and unconventional features. She was a reigning Hollywood beauty for many years, and married powerful producers and other influential millionaires. It was noted she had a faithful Indian maid who served her hand and foot.

When she died, however, it was learned that the grand lady was in fact her mother. She was part-Indian but kept that a secret for fear of the racial barriers that still existed in Hollywood. A Hollywood star could portray a beautiful exotic Asian maiden, as did Myrna Loy in many films, but it was another matter if you were in fact an exotic Asian.

Staid-looking

Even the staid-looking Raymond Burr, known as the lawyer Perry Mason, spiced up his curriculum vitae. He did not even finish high school but he claimed he studied at both Stanford and Columbia universities.

He also claimed he was a lawyer and that he fought in the Pacific War. He constantly changed his birthplace, each becoming more exciting than the last one. He likewise claimed he was married and divorced three times, when only one official marriage is known.

Raymond Burr died cloaked in mystery. Many of his claims proved to be the products of his fertile imagination and have been buried with him. His sexual preference also remained a mystery to the end. Only Perry Mason can solve that one for us!

Rory Quintos directs 'Kailangan Kita'

By Edmund L. Sicam

DIRECTOR Rory Quintos on her latest project, the Aga Muhlach-Claudine Barretto starrer, "Kailangan Kita": It was a difficult project, due to the stars' tight schedules and the fact that most of the scenes were shot in the Bicol region. Plus, it rained a lot. And the director was very meticulous with her shots, so it took five long months to finish.

"Frustrating!" is all Rory can say about the shooting schedule. "*Kaya lang, ang saya namin sa set! Dinaan na lang namin sa tawa.*"

Other projects

Rory, Claudine and Aga are very much at home with each other, having worked on other projects before. "They're two of my favorite actors," she raves. "*Ang gaan! Walang ka-ere-ere.* And they're talented and *mabait*."

Claudine was quite game, especially when it came to love scenes. Although there are no explicit love scenes in this movie, she had to go braless, and she didn't have any qualms about it. Actually, Aga and Claudine wanted more passionate scenes, but the director decided against it. "*Sabi ko, huwag muna!* Gentle love scene *na muna. Iyang mga* ideas ninyo, next film *na lang!*"

QUINTOS (center) with Aga and Claudine.

Rory clarifies that this movie is not the light, romantic comedy that one would expect from Aga and Claudine. "It's a mature love story. Rory was told to project a different Claudine onscreen. "*Talagang* the sensual Claudine *ang lumabas.*"

Potential

Rory first directed Claudine eight years ago in the film, "Mangarap Ka." She recalls, "*Doon sila na-in-*love *ni* Mark (Anthony Fernandez). *Noon pa lang,* she already had the potential, *pero siyempre, nene pa. Wala pang ka-ano-ano sa buhay.* Then I directed her in "Anak," and then *ngayon* after Rico. *Nakita ko siya* going from being a *nene* to the way she has matured. *Kita ko iyung* depth. *Lumalim siya,* specially after the Rico incident."

As for Aga, "Natural *talaga siya. Ang ganda ng mukha niya, ang gwapo-gwapo. Walang ka-*effort-effort."

She tells us why Aga is close to her heart: In 1992, she was given her first directing job by Star Cinema. Rory was assigned to direct Aga in the movie "Basta't Kasama Kita." "It was my first film. I was so scared. So, I very honestly asked for Aga's help. He just said, '*Direk,* I'm all yours. I'll support you all the way.' And he did!"

Meticulous

What does Rory have to say about people calling her a meticulous director? "*Mabusisi talaga ako!*" she readily admits. "In the end, *pag pangit lumabas, ako ang sisisihin e.* So *talagang binubusisi ko.*" Looking back on her career as a director, she says that she is more relaxed now. "*Kasi*, years ago, I was still establishing my reputation, so I was always tense. I used to shout a lot on the set, but not anymore.

"*Ngayon,* it's laughter and fun." Rory says that, more often than not, she becomes friends with her actors. "*Kasi* we spend long hours together. We get to talk about our personal lives. And it's different when the shoot is out of town. We lived together in the beach house of Governor Bichara, so *grabe ang bonding namin sa pelikulang ito.*"

'Pulse' is an Imax feast for the eye and ear

By Sheila Norman-Culp

NEW YORK—Why do kids pound on any surface they find? What links American rap with ancient Japanese drums? What can be found in the favelas of Brazil, the savannas of Africa, the bustling urban markets of Asia?

Drums and a beat.

New audience

Eleven years after "Stomp" exploded upon the stage with its wordless, kinetic celebration of rhythm, its creators are back, trying to bring the same elemental joy of music to a new audience.

"Pulse—a Stomp Odyssey" is an Imax feast for the eye and ear that roams the globe in search of a universal beat. Directed by "Stomp" creators Luke Cresswell and Steve McNicholas, it showcases the cast of "Stomp" as well as 10 extremely diverse musical groups from around the world.

Playing to the strengths of the large-screen IMAX format, many of the film's shots are panoramic, sweeping the audience up into exhilarating spectacles of street carnivals in Brazil, Hindu musical celebrations in India and bugle and drum corps parades across the Brooklyn Bridge.

Guide

It's also impossible not to like Keith Middleton, who acts as our guide though this musical mystery tour. Kids especially are smitten by his goofy charm, and women swoon over his edgy rhythm moves and powerful physique.

Denzel, watch out. If Hollywood producers had any sense, they would snatch up this new leading man pronto.

Each act was unique yet had the same goal: to inspire. Some, like Flamenco dancer Eva Yerbabuena, were solo performers. Others, like Brazil's 200-piece drum orchestra Timbalada and the Khoi San dancers and musicians from Bostwana's Kalahari Desert, were large, enticingly exotic ensembles that transported the audience far away from their ordinary lives.

Some groups were unusual simply in their appearances. The Kodo drummers from Japan were so emaciated—slender, wiry knots of muscles operating at breakneck speed—it made you wonder how much they deliberately starved themselves to achieve their art. The Hindu drummers in Kerala, India, parade with dozens of elaborately decorated elephants.

Eclectic choices

Still other groups, like the Winchester Cathedral Bellringers from England, the Jersey Surf Drum and Bugle Corps and the Jackie Robinson Steppers, were eclectic choices that nicely served to broaden the film's appeal to the universal.

Only two segments of the film were not up to the impossibly high standards set by the other performances. One was a noble effort to produce rhythm notes underwater—more of a funny science experiment than anything else. Also, perhaps simply because many Americans have seen some kind of American Indian performances before, the dance in a canyon was beautifully photographed but not that stirring.

"Pulse" is not rated but is suitable even for young families. All ethnic dancers are fully clothed. Running time: 40 minutes. Three and a half stars out of four. *AP*

Sharon and Kiko share their thoughts on parenting

From page D6

now. She doesn't right away tell you what she feels.

Kiko, how do you relate to KC?

S: Super daddy!

F: I consider her my own . . . She calls me Dad . . .

S : And no one asked her to call him that. All of a sudden, just one day, she goes, "Dad..."

Bonding

So *nag*-bond *kaagad kayo?*

F: I think so.

Why?

S: *Si* Kiko *kasi,* closely knit *iyung* family.

F: *Madami akong pamangkin e,* and I was always very fond of kids. I told myself, with KC, I should just be myself.

S: KC warmed up to you very easily.

S: I think, aside from loving Kiko, what really finally made me decide yeah, this is the guy I'll marry, was that KC really got along with him.

How do you keep your children from getting spoiled?

S: That's our problem sometimes because although we try our best, like KC has an allowance every week, but her *lola* my mom, spoils her.

F: I think part of it is how we live our lives. I teach by example. I live within my means, I'm not *maluho.*

S: You should live nga *below* your means, *e.*

Screening

Do you screen what KC watches on TV or the movies?

S: I'm *ano pa rin: Ano ba iyan* KC? *Kadiri iyan!* Then she'll laugh, but sometimes she'll change the channel.

F: Children are impressionable. They see how you respond and react. So me, without being direct, but at the same time being firm about particular issues, *hindi pupuwede iyan.*

Do you screen who sees KC?

S: *Ay,* no! I just ask her, *sino iyan?*

F: It doesn't come to screening but it comes to . . . you won't hear good words from me.

S: *Medyo balanse kami doon, kasi siya yung ayaw. Ako yung laging sinasabihan niya ng, ano ka ba? Masyado kang* friendly diyan! *Magka*-close *na kayo!*

F: *E biro mo, kung merong singsing sa ilong, siyempre . . .*

S: *Ay, ayoko iyon! Pag mukhang* abnormal, *ayoko! Pag hindi mukhang disente, ayoko.*

F: You'll hear from me! I will not keep quiet and say, *mukhang* OK *ito, may singsing sa ilong...*

S: *Ako*, it doesn't matter. I always tell her, I don't care what the background of the kid is in terms of what his parents went through, as long as I see the kid is *matino,* trying to make a good life for himself. As long as I see he can be good to you, that's fine. And she brings them here.

Time for each other

With the punishing schedule you have, how do you find time for each other?

S: That's very rare! Hahaha! *Kasi* what happens is, the priority is really the kids.

F: We were in Bali two weeks before the bombing.

S: *Kami lang.* But the whole time, we were thinking of the kids. Even on our wedding anniversary, when we check into a hotel, we say, *ano, sama na natin sila, kasi hindi kami matatahimik.* My kids are my life, I cannot live without them. My happiest times are when the four of us are abroad and we go to cheap places and we don't do anything fancy. Favorites *namin,* Bangkok, Hong Kong. And I still wanna go to Bali and Malaysia.

How do you raise children in these troubled times?

F: *Siguro* you become philosophical. You simply leave it all up to God. You work as if everything depended on you, and pray as if everything depended on God.

S: It used to be easier—at least, we had options. Just a few years ago, before 9-11, if things got tough, you could always plan to go to the States and start a life there. *Ako naman,* I never really imagined living anywhere else *e.* I had my one, happy, fabulous year in Boston, but I love being home.

But I'm a mother, so even if I love my country so much, even if my husband is a senator, if I don't feel safe in this country, being a mother, first and foremost, I'm going to watch out for the safety of my children. The sad thing is, I know how hard my husband works and how grand his dreams are for the country and what he's willing to sacrifice.

Flowery movie dialogue harks back to more lushly romantic times

By Nestor U. Torre

PEOPLE who compare old Filipino films to the flicks being made today note that great strides have been made in terms of greater realism, particularly in the aspect of movie dialogue, which used to be very flowery and poetic, especially in melodramas.

Throwback

This is a direct throwback to the days of the *zarsuelas* and other traditional Filipino theater forms, where beautiful rather than realistic language was prized. This influenced other dramatic media, but it has now generally fallen into disuse, with the exception of some radio drama serials, where we still hear some self-consciously ornate "arias" being moodily mouthed

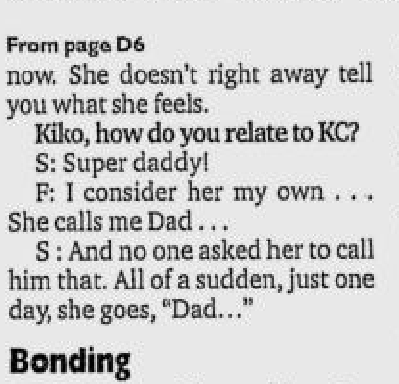
Some years ago, dramatic films also doted on these "arias," with the protagonist, usually female, using beautiful language to ardently express her romantic feelings or regrets, her insights into life, etc.—even if it sounded unnatural, and the storytelling had to stop to make time for those elevated expressions of the protagonist's heart and soul.

TV soaps

Aside from radio dramas, we still get some of this in TV soaps, but they're nowhere as extended as they were in the romantic and melodramatic movies of the '50s and '60s.

What did movie characters sound like in those more elegant and less realistic days? Here are some choice examples collated from film retrospectives—enjoy:

One *mataray* character to another, just before they launch into a passionate clinch: "*Labis-labis na ang kasamaan mo! Dapat siguro ay ipahalik muna kita sa lupa para makita mo ang kapalaluan mo!*"



PERIOD films like "Dalaga" (starring Norma Blancaflor and Ely Ramos) favored extravagantly literary and expressive dialogue to heighten romance or melodrama.

After the unexpected clinch and kiss, the other character hisses, "*Panghas! Alam mo ba ang magiging kapalit ng paglalapastangan mo sa akin?!*"—Don't answer that one.

In another scene, a young woman who turns down a swain's proposal even if it's clear that she likes him, is archly asked by the spurned suitor: "*Binibini, bakit mo tinatanggihan ang kaligayahan na nakatakda sa bawa't nilalang?*"

It turns out that the suitor has been spurned because the young lady is wealthy and thinks that he's just after her wealth! Who then can blame him for retorting, "*Kung inaakala mong nasisilaw lamang ako sa iyong salapi, nagkakamali ka! Hindi ako gahaman tulad ng pamilya niyo. Umaasa kang hindi na kita gagambalain kailan man!*" (Take that, you rich bitch.)

Arch putdown

In another films, a good girl goes bad and asks for forgiveness, prompting this arch putdown: "*Kapatawaran? Humihingi ka ng kapatawaran? Hindi kita naunawaan. Nagtataka ako na, pagkatapos mong magtampisaw sa putik, ay naghahanap ka ngayon ng tubig upang mahugasan ang iyong kasalanan!*"

Even a question about the whereabouts of a missing relative can't be answered with a simple "*Ewan ko.*" Why answer so unimaginatively when you can go to town with: "*Yan ang di ko pa nababalitaan, sa kasamaang palad. Ngunit, kung saan man siya naroroon ngayon, harinawa maaalala pa niyang bumalik sa atin!*" *Harinawa,* indeed!

Period productions

Other choice quote-unquotes from period movie productions: "*Lumapit ka sa akin, salapi—lumapit ka. Ikaw ang magiging kasangkapan ko laban sa daigdig na ito!*"

"*Hindi ko akalaing dudungisan mo ang aking karangalan, sampu ng aking katandaan!*"

"*Kung ayaw mong mapahamak, huwag kang makihalubilo sa mga hamak!*"

"*Bibig mo ang nangungusap, hindi ang iyong puso!*"

"*Pabayaan mo nang ilibing ng kahapon ang pait ng nakaraan!*"

"*Inilipat mo na ang kasalanan mo sa aking mga kamay. Kaya bayaan mo na ako ang magdulot ng karampatang parusa!*"

"*Kung sakaling mangyari yon, kung tuluyan mo nang lilisanin ang pook na ito, ang daigdig ko ay tuluyan nang magdilim para sa akin!*"

"*Gawin mo na ang gusto mo, isakatuparan mo na ang iyong paghihiganti—tutal, wala nang kabuluhan ang aba kong buhay!*"

"*Kahit wala na ang ina mo, ang puso niya'y naiwan upang ikaragdag sa akin sa pagaaruga sa 'yo!*"

And, just in time for the movie's final fade: "*Tayo na, irog—tayo na sa bagong daigdig na naghihintay sa atin!*"— How can we resist an invitation like that?!

Richard Harris fighting Hodgkin's disease, agent says

HARRIS. Out of the hospital soon.

LONDON—Actor Richard Harris, who stars as Professor Albus Dumbledore in the Harry Potter movies, has been hospitalized following treatment for cancer, his agent said Tuesday.

Chest infection

The veteran Irish actor fell ill in August after filming the second Harry Potter film, "The Chamber of Secrets," and went to a hospital with a severe chest infection, his London-based agent Sharon Thomas said.

Third movie

She said the 72-year-old had been in University College Hospital, central London for two months, where he has had a course of chemotherapy for Hodgkin's disease.

"He has responded extremely well to treatment. He will be out of hospital very soon," Thomas said.

She said Harris would be available for filming the third movie based on author J.K. Rowling's boy wizard, "The Prisoner of Azkaban."

Hodgkin's disease is the most common type of lymphoma—a cancer of the lymphatic system, which is a network of thin tubes that carry disease-fighting white blood cells throughout the body. It occurs when the cells grow abnormally and collect to form tumors, often in the lymph nodes. *AP*

Latest Bond girl is Barbie doll

EL SEGUNDO, California—James Bond's latest girl is Barbie—Barbie doll.

Mattel Inc. is celebrating the 40th anniversary of the first 007 thriller with a $75 gift set featuring Barbie and friend Ken as the Bond girl and debonaire spy.

Barbie has taken on many roles, from astronaut to veterinarian, but this doll likes her martinis shaken, not stirred.

"The James Bond 007 Ken and Barbie doll gift set pays tribute to the many memorable James Bond films and their famous characters over the past 40 years," Mattel marketing vice president Jamie Cygielman said.

Red shawl

Ken is dressed in 007's trademark tuxedo and carries a briefcase, while Barbie is wearing a golden lace gown and red shawl with a cell phone strapped to her thigh.

The 20th James Bond film, "Die Another Day," is scheduled for release Nov. 22. It stars Pierce Brosnan and Halle Berry. *AP*

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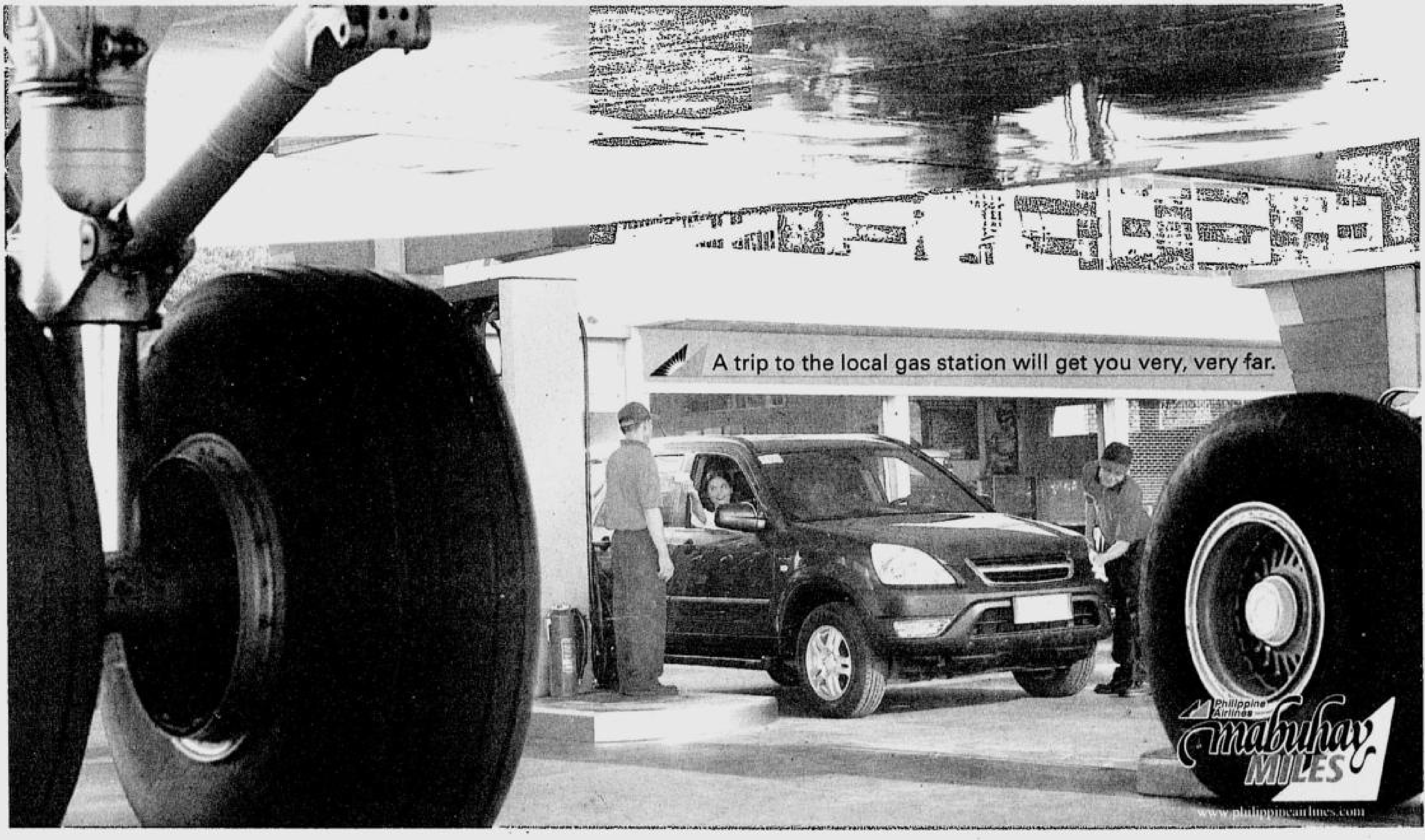
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Per DTI-NCR Permit # 3348 Series of 2002

Sharon and Kiko share their thoughts on parenting

By Edmund L. Sicam

TODAY, the First Philippine Parenting Convention will be held at the NBC Tent to discuss issues and opportunities in modern day parenting. The three-day affair is spearheaded by Anthony and Maricel Pangilinan. To generate interest in the convention, the couple invited us to interview Megastar Sharon Cuneta and her husband, Sen. Francis Pangilinan at their Wack Wack residence. Excerpts:

Quality time

You're both very busy people, how do you manage to spend quality time with your children, and what is quality time to you?

F: I think it's just living life simply. You work, then after work, you go home and do activities that are home-related. *Huwag nang gawing kumplikado pa*.

S: We don't like going out. Specially me! *Siya*, he has social obligations. *Ako*, I'd rather stay home. But this guy, he really makes a big effort to come home early to put the baby to sleep.

F: With KC *naman*, it's being interested in what interests her.

S: Last night she was showing us a video of different dances. She likes to dance *e*, she's in the dance corps of her school.

F: And then she had this pep rally in school, they had a tape.

S: We watched the video, and she likes *mga* Britney Spears and Janet Jackson so, when there's a new DVD out, I order it from the States for her.

F: ...and of course, homework,

S: We make *bantay*.

Grades

How important are grades to you?

F: The way I explain it to KC, it's not so much getting high grades, but getting the grade that you work hard for.

S: ...and getting the grade that you're capable of getting.

But are you personally disappointed if your kid doesn't get high grades?

F: It's not the high grades. When you talk to the teachers, they will tell you, she's intelligent, etc., but sometimes her mind is not focused on the work at hand. It's not the grades, it's the attitude.

THE COUPLE believes in living a simple life. MONICA GUTIERREZ

They say the hardest phase of a person's life is the teen years.

S: Oh yes!

So how do you cope with a teenager in your house?

S: We had rough patches about three years ago.

F: I try my very best to remember my own teenage years so I don't become too harsh or rigid. 'Cause we all went through that phase.

S: In that area, he has the edge over me. Because my teenage years were years of working *na*, I had no privacy. But I was still in school. In school, I was normal. I always had something I had to be responsible for, so I didn't want to disappoint my parents in any area, either work or in school, so it was different for me. So *pag dating doon*, I tell Kiko, "*Ikaw ang mag-ano*," *kasi nga* emotional *ako e*. There are things *naman* that she can talk to me about that she can't tell her dad.

What kind of disciplinarians are you as parents?

S: We ground her when she needs to be grounded.

F: There is a curfew. There are rules. You are not allowed to do this on school days.

S: And when you say you're going to this place, you can't all of a sudden move to another without letting us know first, because times are scary. We're a little bit more *maluwag* with her now because she's older, and we know her friends.

Spanking

Do you believe in spanking?

S: Yeah. But the last time I spanked KC, she was four years old *pa*! In her 17 years, I've spanked her about twice or thrice, fake *pa nga e!* It's more the psychological aspect, *kahit di naman masakit, kasi di mo naman itotodo, "Oh my God, I'm being punished!"*

F: I feel the same. Maybe on occasion.

What was the difference between raising Frankie and KC?

S: You know, I had KC when I was 19. I was practically growing up myself. I had to make a life for the two of us. I was still trying to establish myself in show business. So I had to be dad, mom, the provider, the sister. *Mahirap talaga. Basta*, I did my best. Although looking back, *sana*, I could have spent as much time with her as I spend with Frankie now.

What do you think was the effect of those years on KC? *May* emotional...

S: *Hindi maalis iyon e* . . . I think. Like for example, I see in Frankie, she's so secure, she'll be friendly to anybody because nobody in this house has ever shown her *na walang pumapansin sa kanya. Si* KC, obviously, had to put up with a lot from the time that she was 2 ½. But she's coped pretty well. She's a very *malambing* child. But she's a bit more *matago*

SHARON/ D4

'Best of Gil' features songs that harp on the same subject

By Noelani Torre

GIL Ofarim still has a lot of growing up to do. The same pretty-boy good looks that his fans are sighing over also indicate the state and quality of his music: skin-deep surface gloss.

Teen ballads

More popularly known as just plain Gil, this young Euro pop-star has been clogging Asian airwaves with his teen ballads, and, apparently, he's done enough work to justify the existence of an album titled "The Best of Gil" (BMG).

Composed of 17 tracks, three previously unreleased, this CD includes the songs that have made Gil a wildly popular music star among teenyboppers, especially in this region.

He's barely even started out and he already thinks he's got a comprehensive body of work to choose his "best" from? Come on. Still, there are no laws against this sort of practice, and the guy does have loyal fans who will patronize whatever he sees fit to dish out, so...

For our part, all the songs in this collection deal with romantic love, at least the way it is defined by Gil, boy bands, and the like. Listening to 17 tracks harping on the same subject can be mind-numbing. There *are* some variations, but there's hardly any difference between "You're the only one for me" and "All I need is just you by my side," is there?

Catchy

The album-opener, "It's Your Love," is the most familiar one of the lot. We remember it being played over and over again on the radio. It's quite catchy, which probably explains why we even caught several Gil non-lovers unconsciously humming the darned thing. Like most of the of the songs in this album, it is, in the words of an MTV reviewer, "a sappy dedication from one besotted teen to another."

Following it is "If You Only Knew," another catchy hit which takes a shot at being wistful but only manages to sound trite. The tune of "Out of My Bed (Still in my Head)" also lingers despite its lame lyrics ("Out of my bed, but you're still in my head/ I want you to know I won't let you go").

But, compared to "Round N' Round," "Emotions," and "Bang, Bang, Bang," they seem fresh and deep. Those three songs really take the cake for inanity. Witness, for example, the refrain of "Bang, Bang, Bang": "Bang, bang, bang . . .We're like bang, bang, bang and sing, sing, sing . . ." What can you say to that?

In "Emotions," he sings: "I can't stop this emotion that I'm feeling." —It's exasperating! Oh, well, at least he's brave enough to write most of the songs he sings.

Bonus tracks

The bonus tracks—"Do You Believe Me," "Live Your Dreams," and "I Can't Help Falling"—don't sound like much of a bonus, except for "Live Your Dreams," the one song we felt was a bit different from the others. It has a rhythmic flamenco entry that adds spice to an otherwise bland compilation. Perhaps it is an attempt to ride on the Latino craze (it even has a Spanish lyric or two), but we appreciate the fact that it sounds different from the rest.

It is in two songs, "Close 2 Perfect" and "I Am So In Love," that one realizes that Gil can sing. Though these songs aren't vast improvements over the others, the accompaniment is downplayed and Gil's voice showcased so that one finally notices that he just might have possibilities. It has been mentioned before that he sounds a bit "early Jon Bon Jovi-ish," and we could hear that. His voice has a subdued, gritty hook to it that might just create more interesting textures as he matures.

The singing talent is certainly there, though we're not quite sure about the songwriting, but we feel that Gil doesn't use his voice enough. Singing uncomplicated and cheesy love songs is certainly not what one would call maximizing talent.

Even though his "Best of Gil" is not going to be in our CD player for long, it's only fair to say that this guy has the potential to be more than just a teenage dreamboat who can sing.

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Greg Kinnear's career takes a seamy turn

From page D1

Crane's final 17 years, tracing his rise as a TV star and his descent into sexual addiction, which would cost him two wives, professional success and eventually his life, when his skull was crushed by a camera tripod in 1978.

"It's not lost on me that this is a different kind of film for me," Kinnear says. "I'm not bludgeoned to death in any other of my movies."

Charm

A fan of Crane's since high school, Kinnear admired the actor's charm as he outwitted Nazis every week as the leader of imprisoned Allied POWs. Only later did he learn of Crane's seamier side.

The "Auto Focus" script describes how Crane became gradually obsessed with sex and began filming a steady stream of conquests after he teamed up with video technician Johnny Carpenter, played in the film by Willem Dafoe.

"My take on Bob is that he was pretty oblivious when he started out about what he was doing to himself and his family, and he was pretty oblivious at the end," Kinnear says.

"He really just didn't seem to get it. He wasn't very introspective, I don't believe. He didn't seem to see himself in his own portrait. Bob never saw himself moving through the corridors of despair."

That's a quality Kinnear doesn't share. In fact, despite the physical similarity between Crane and Kinnear, it's hard to imagine two men more dissimilar in personality.

Choices

"In terms of my choices and general decisions in life, I am a bit of an anguisher. I have a difficult time ordering off the dinner menu, much less general, bigger life choices," Kinnear says.

"I deliberate heavily before making choices and then I try to stay away from letting that little weasel of self-regret and self-doubt work its way into the back of my mind."

Director Paul Schrader was confident the likable Kinnear could be transformed into a man slowly spinning out of control, a role that required heavy doses of nudity and misogyny.

"By nature, he is a cautious sort of man," Schrader says of Kinnear. "He wanted to do something different, and he knew he had to do something different."

Kinnear, 38, began his career as the host of the snarky "Talk Soup" on E! Entertainment Television. He won a Daytime Emmy Award playing clips of trash TV like "The Jerry Springer Show."

In 1994, Kinnear found himself as the host of his own talk show after replacing Bob Costas on NBC's "Later." At the same time, he landed his first significant film role in "Sabrina," with Harrison Ford and Julia Ormond.

A breakthrough of sorts came when he was picked to play Jack Nicholson's gay neighbor in 1997's "As Good as It Gets," a role that earned him an Academy Award nomination.

"Truthfully, I didn't feel like I was an actor. When I got 'As Good as It Gets,' I felt like, 'You know what? This is something I feel passionate about,'" he says.

Umbilical cord

While Kinnear had been juggling the small screen and movies, now he felt he had to choose. NBC agreed to release him from his contract—or, as he puts it, "cut the umbilical cord."

"It was kind of a starting point for me," he says. "I did feel like I had crossed some threshold of marginal confidence as an actor. It was a time when I could really throw myself into it."

Since then, Kinnear has been flexing more acting muscles, appearing in the dark comedies "Loser" and "Nurse Betty," the dramas "We Were Soldiers" and "Dinner with Friends"—as well as the romantic comedies "You've Got Mail" and "Someone Like You."

"He'd been getting better and better as an actor," says Schrader. "When we began this, he was strong in an area where I was weak, which is the comedy. I needed an actor who could absolutely cover me in the shallow end. I could cover him in the deep end."

Though loath to make any comparison between himself and his latest character, Kinnear admits that his career does share the slow, consistent arc that Crane's did—even if they traveled in opposite directions.

Steady evolution

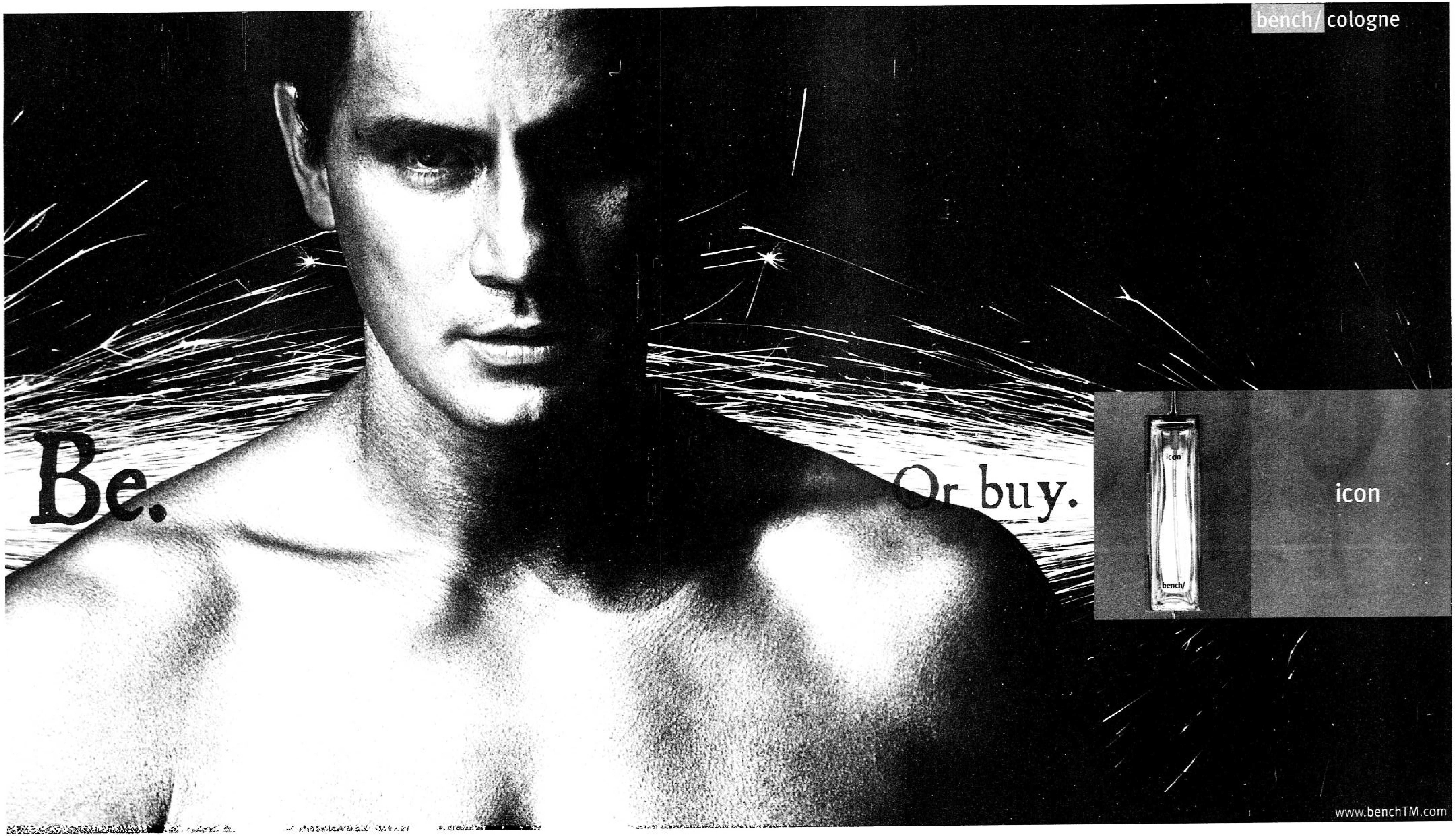
"In terms of my career, it's been steady work and a steady evolution for 15 years, and they've been really incremental changes," he says.

"It just has been like a slow burn, which is something I'm really grateful for. I shudder at some of those young actors or stars who just, all of a sudden, have that mega-fuel burn and blast off."

Now that Kinnear is a movie star—"a thespian," he corrects sarcastically—does he fear the sense of entitlement and privilege that helped corrupt Crane?

"He fell into temptation. Do I think that's about fame? No. I think temptation is an element of every person on the planet. Temptation isn't exclusive to celebrity," Kinnear says.

"I try to keep some sort of a historic and larger perspective than Hollywood. Yes, it's exciting with flashbulbs all over the place, but basically it's a job. I mean, I have a family, I have a dog that needs to be fed, trash that needs to be taken out, snapper that needs to be marinated." *AP*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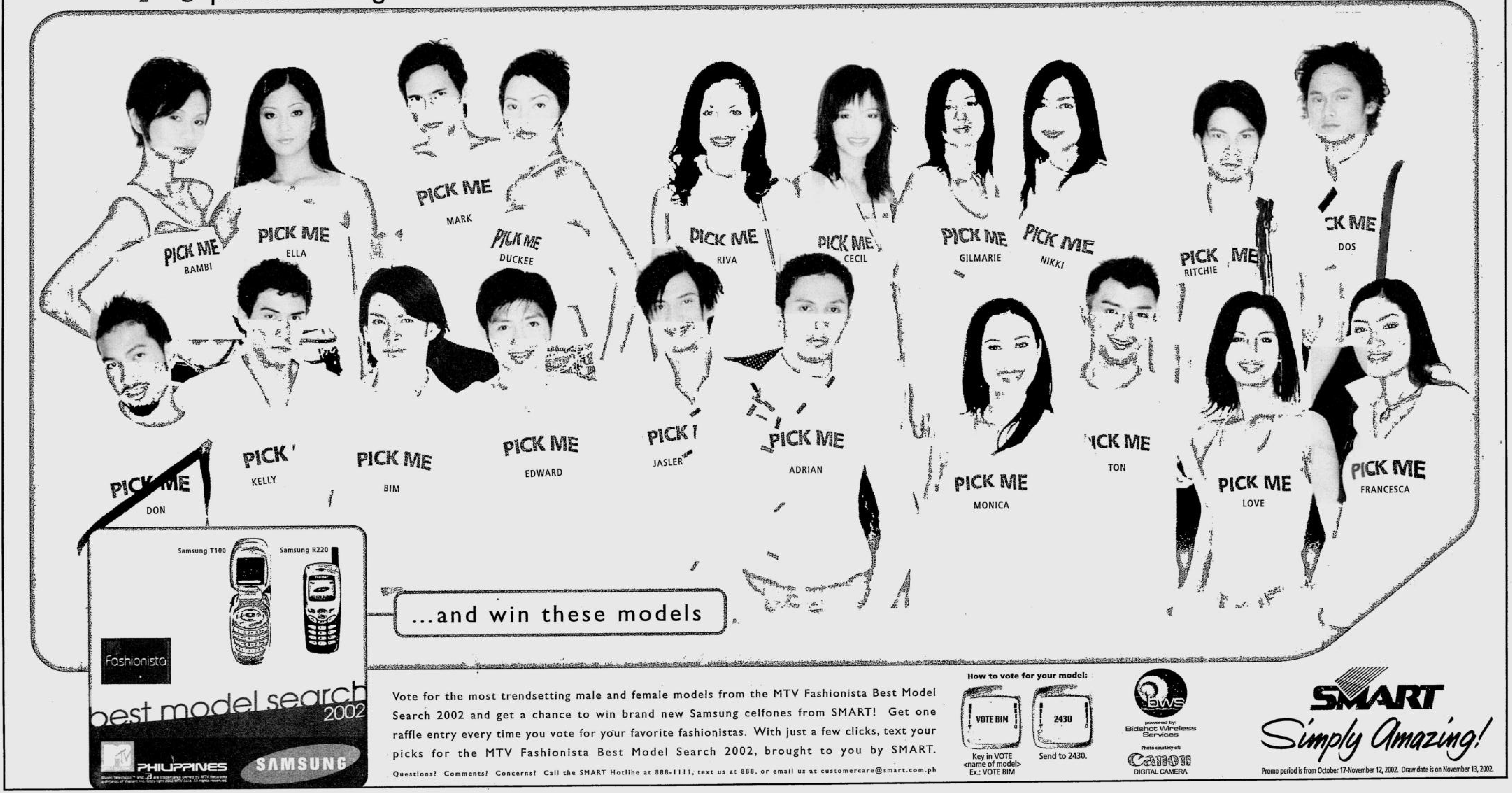
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KIDMAN. Eager to wiggle her enchanted nose as witch Samantha on the big screen.

Nicole Kidman wants to revive 'Bewitched'

LOS ANGELES—Australian superstar Nicole Kidman wants to create movie magic by starring as a beautiful witch in a movie version of the hit 1960s US television comedy "Bewitched."

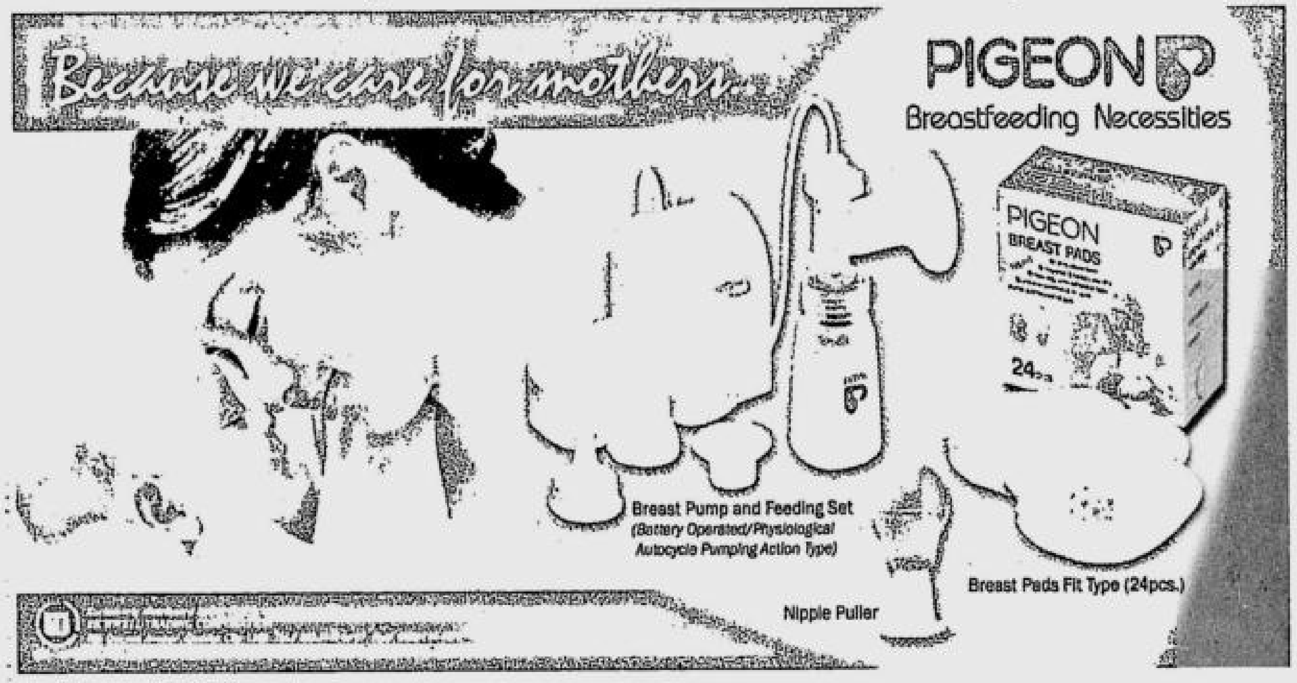
The ex-wife of Tom Cruise says she is very keen to wiggle her enchanted nose as witch Samantha in the big-screen version of the show that cast a spell on a generations of Americans, as well as on viewers across the globe.

Interest

"I have to make that movie," Kidman was quoted as saying by USA Today newspaper. "There's an enormous amount of interest in it," she said of the Columbia Pictures project reviving actress Elizabeth Montgomery's character.

Possible contenders for the role of Samantha's mortal husband, Darrin, include "Austin Powers" star Mike Myers and Jim Carrey, the industry press has reported.

Oscar-nominated redhead Kidman starred in three hit 2001 films, "Moulin Rouge," "The Others" and "Birthday Girl," as well as in films like "Eyes Wide Shut" and "Dead Calm." *AFP*



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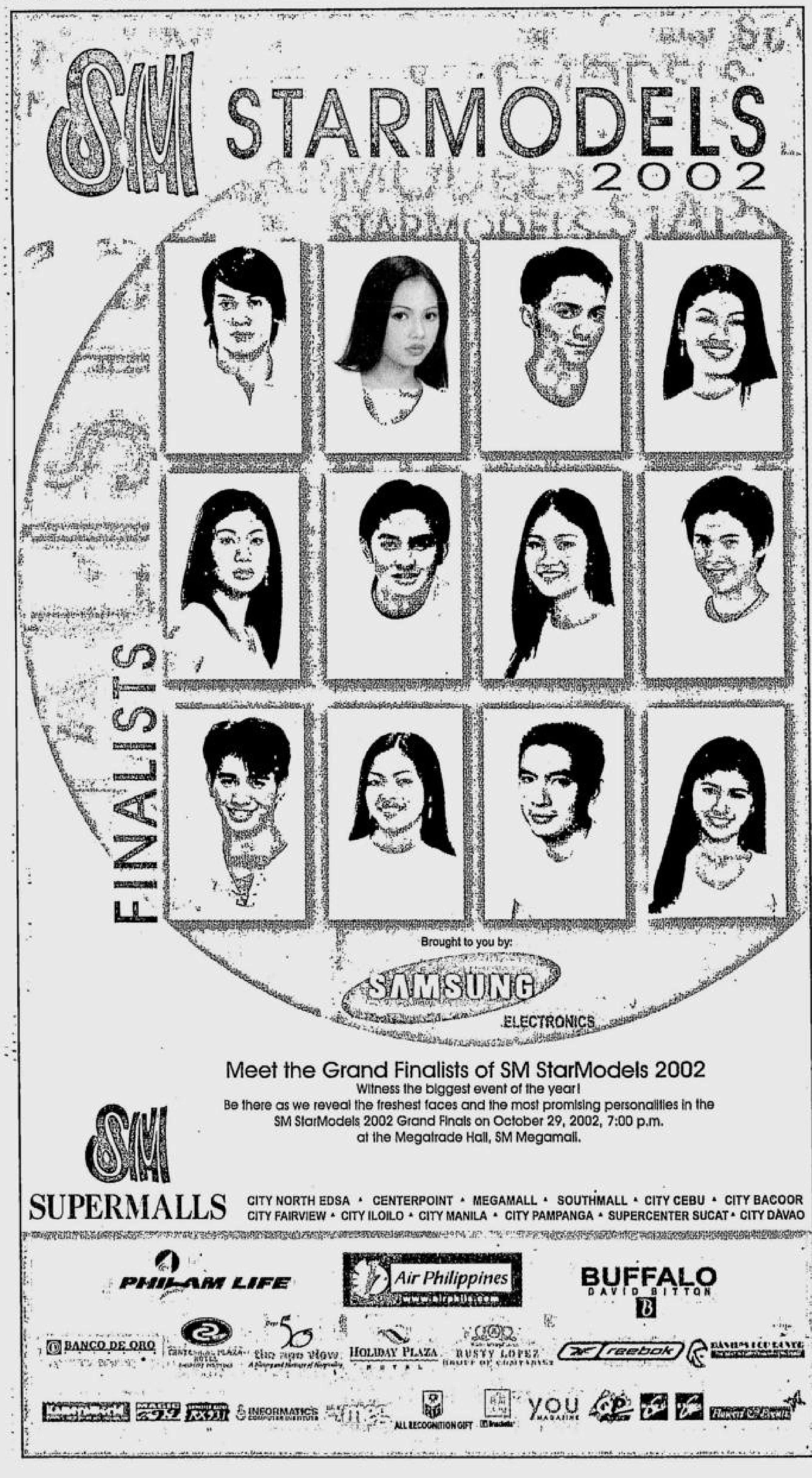

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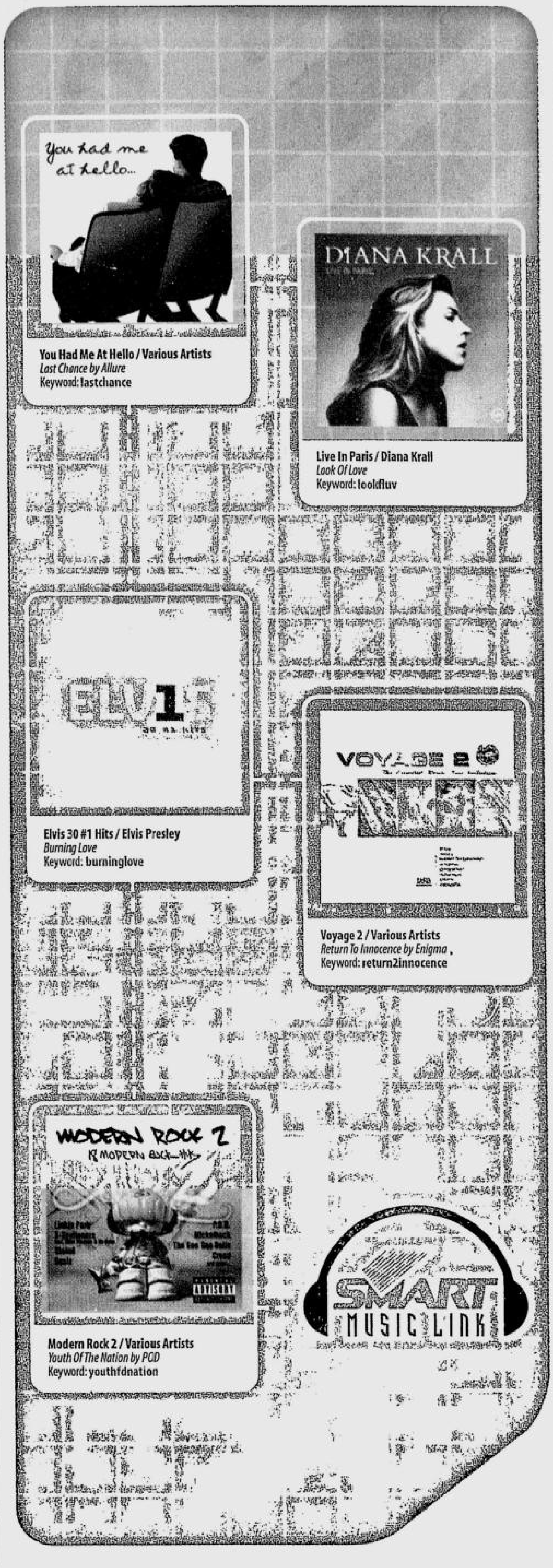

You Had Me At Hello / Various Artists
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13 **I Wanna Get Close**
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INDAY (front, seated) with guests and friends (from left) German Moreno, Snooky Serna, Vilma Santos, Cesar Montano, Maricel Laxa and Zoren Legaspi after a "Face to Face" telecast.

And the winner is . . .

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

DEAR Clara,

I'm so very happy, Clara. And you make me all the happier. Because the sparkle I saw in your eyes when you learned that "Face to Face" was chosen as the Best Entertainment Column in last Tuesday's Catholic Mass Media Awards magnified the joy that this singular honor conferred on me.

Rock

Truth to tell, my dear child, not even in my wildest dreams had I entertained the thought of copping a rock from the CMMA. Indeed, great is the feeling of reaching the pinnacle of one's dreams—but greater still is the fulfillment that comes from achieving what one never even dared to dream of. To think that, barely two weeks earlier, the Star Awards for Television also bestowed upon me the Ading Fernando lifetime achievement award.

It must be the season for affirmation up there in heaven, Clara—and I'm so blessed to be affirmed in so grand a fashion here on earth. It was quite unfortunate, however, that I wasn't all that prepared for all this.

In my acceptance speech at the Star, I could blame the unbearable heat and the hyperactive fans and a million other tiny aggravations, but I still couldn't forgive myself for forgetting to thank God for that magnificent blessing. As for the CMMA, I totally forgot to go. It was probably the greatest moment of my life—and I wasn't even there!

Presence of mind

Know what, Clara? Had I the presence of mind that night at the UP Theater, I'd have offered my award to God who, after all, is the one who truly deserves all the honor and glory. And I'd also have thanked the production staffers of all the TV shows I've ever hosted and produced—without whose dedication and selfless contributions I certainly wouldn't have accomplished anything worthy of any award.

I miss them terribly. I miss the sense of family that bound us. I miss the fun, the frenzy—and the fights, too. Today, whenever I see TV hosts receiving an award, I wonder if their staffers were made of the same stuff as mine—whether they loved as much as they worked, or if they laughed and cried together as much as they toiled and labored.

(The measure of our achievement is not in the heights we have reached in our career or the weight in gold of our material possessions, but in the number of people whose lives we have touched while doing what God has equipped us to do best. By this yardstick, Clara, I submit that I have done quite well, indeed.)

I remember Loca. The Loca office was always a beehive of activity and a gallery of characters of all shapes, sizes, colors, temperaments and genders. We came from different backgrounds and were forged by different experiences and pains, but we were united by the same spirit of giving our best in doing what we all loved.

Legacy

I hope you still recall those days, Clara, because they are a big part of the legacy that I shall leave behind—whether you and I like it or not. Indeed, show biz is the blood—dialyzed though it now is—that continues to run in my veins. And television is forever the world where I belong. And I know that I shall soon embrace it again, by God's grace—just you wait and see…

Yes, Clara, I miss television. I miss the adrenaline rush everytime the countdown is called before the start of every show. I miss the dynamic tension that goes with beating deadlines, rushing from one celebrity interview to another, being an active part of the mean machine that has the awesome power not just to report but also to influence events and happenings, not only in show biz but also in the private lives of people.

Speaking of which, Clara, I do confess that, in those heady days, I did certain things I would now think a hundred times before doing. I know I hurt some people, and I ask forgiveness. I tested some waters which proved too hot, and I got burnt; or they were too cold, but I got burnt all the same.

Hindsight

But then, Clara, as I ponder on everything with the luxury of hindsight, I realize that the spirit which made me do all those things I now feel sorry for was the same spirit that also made me soar to heights I never knew I was capable of scaling.

Courage is the name given to audacity when the effort succeeds. When it fails, the name given is effrontery—or worse, plain stupidity.

Going back to awards, there was a time when I didn't ascribe a lot of importance to them. I only wanted to win them because losing would have given me immeasurable humiliation and disgrace. That was, at the time, totally unthinkable!

Besides, I used to believe that awards were unnecessary. They were important only for those who were insecure about their achievement and therefore needed some kind of certification of the worth of their accomplishments. For me, then, the joy in doing what one did best was its own award.

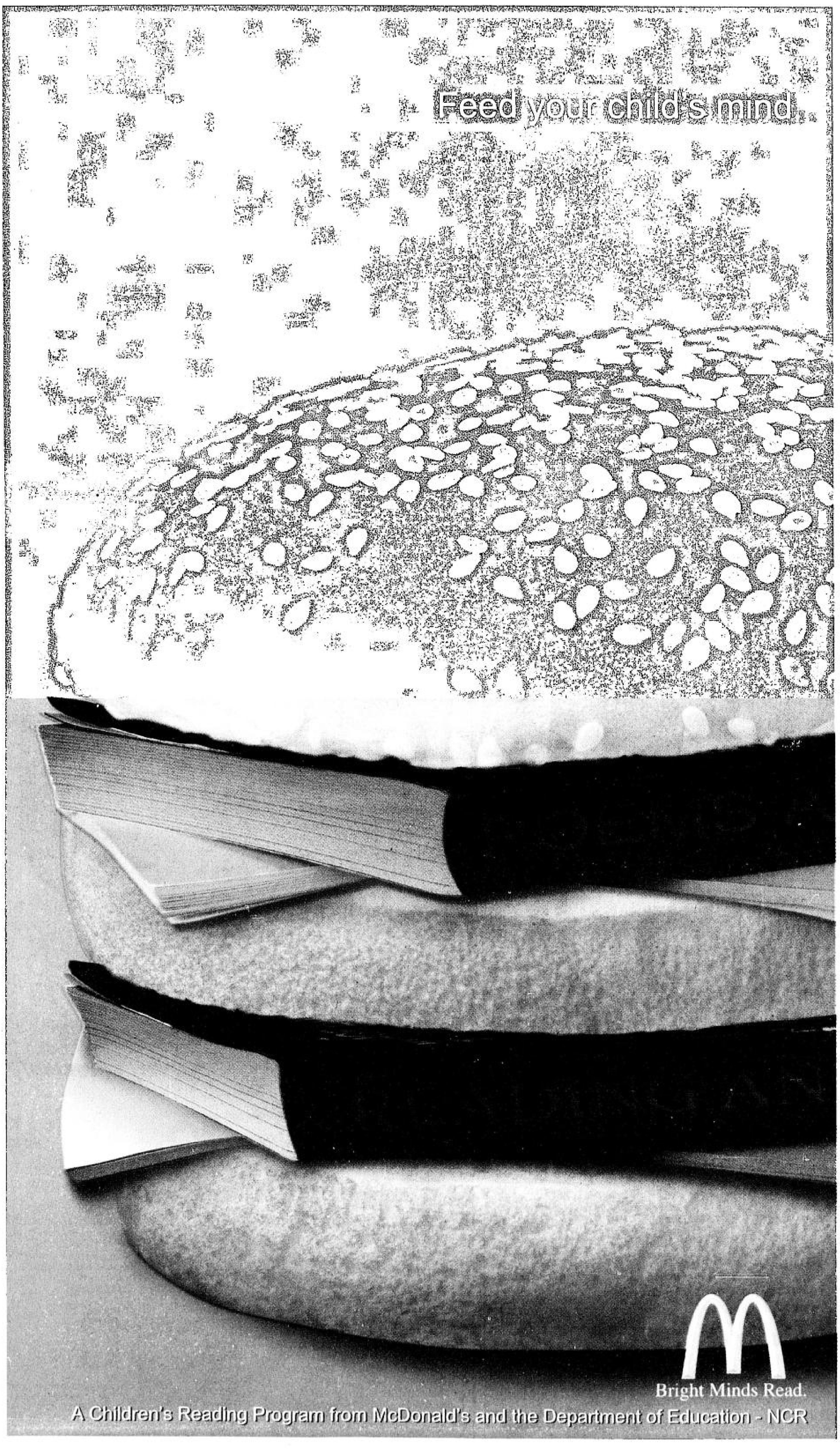
I have since reassessed my view about awards. As I now throw a wistful eye at my neat collection of trophies, I recognize the value of what they stand for—and I'm humbled by a deep sense of gratitude.

Ardor and fervor

Now, awards signify the totality of the love that people give back because of the love that has been given to them. They symbolize the ardor and fervor of the recipient's commitment and conviction in doing what she is being given an award for. And they also represent the sum total of how well a person has fulfilled the mission that the Lord has sent her on.

My dear Clara, the rock that the Catholic Mass Media Awards have given me does all that, and more. It also embodies the connection we have established with so many ordinary people out there through this column. And, to a great extent, that rock also strengthens even more the foundation of the love we have rediscovered for each other.

For your insights and comments, e-mail to: badids2000@yahoo.com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William Inge, Horton Foote and John Patrick in 'Shoptalk'

By Noelani Torre

THE NAMES William Inge, Horton Foote, and John Patrick may not be familiar to most people, even those who have a nodding acquaintance with American theater and film. But, after reading Dennis Brown's brief but incisive interviews with them, we find ourselves wanting to know even more.

Inge, Foote, and Patrick are interviewed in Dennis Brown's "Shoptalk: Conversations about Theater and Film" (Newmarket Press). All three are writers for stage and film, and share with readers the blows that show business had dealt them.

Soulmates

"William Inge and Horton Foote might have been soulmates," writes Brown. The two were born only three years apart, came from small towns, and "both men knew that their roots provided the sustenance for their writing."

Still, there are sharp contrasts between them, especially in disposition: Inge was a "victim of his own despair," while Foote is the "happy warrior."

"I lost my audience," said Inge, "and I haven't been able to get it back." And this Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, who was once hailed as "the next Tennessee Williams," committed suicide soon after sharing this depressing sentiment with Brown.

Says Brown of his interviewee: "An Inge interview is not unlike an Inge play. His statements weren't profound; his sentences weren't eloquent. But beneath his words was a poignant residue of anguish, a weary hurt that Elia Kazan has defined as 'a quiet terror,' that bored within me and still remains."

Promising start

Inge had a promising enough start to his playwriting career, with his play "Come Back, Little Sheba," opening to modest success in 1950. It earned him the title of "most promising playwright of the 1950 season." This was followed three years later by "Picnic," which Brown calls "Inge's most durable play."

"Picnic" signaled the beginning of Inge's success, earning for its author the Pulitzer Prize, the Drama Critics Circle Award, the Outer Circle Award, and the Theater Club Award. He followed this with more hits: "Bus Stop," which he later adapted into a popular Marilyn Monroe starrer; and "The Dark at the Top of the Stairs," which most deem to be his finest play. He was one of Broadway's Big Three by 1957 (Tennessee Williams and Arthur Miller were the other two), but two years after that came the first flop that was a harbinger of frustrating years of failure.

Destructive period

"I started developing," he told Brown, "my writing changed; critics couldn't relate it to anything else I'd written. The early 1960s, when a whole new group of critics came into control in New York, was a very destructive period."

Inge hauled himself up with a novelette, "Splendor in the Grass," which later won him an Academy Award, but he never rose to his former heights after that.

"I'm restless and ill at ease most of the time," he said. "I use my writing as a release. I have been working more and more to be my own man. It's very hard to write, for sometimes you are dealing with your most traumatic experiences. A writer has to recognize himself and his own boundaries, has to recognize what is his right in the world, has to seek out his own depths."

This is good advice for aspiring authors, but Inge himself took it very seriously, or perhaps he listened to other people's assessment of his own boundaries, and, despairing over his failures, he killed himself.

Unlike Inge, Foote, who's had his own share of failures, remains optimistic. He has been an active playwright for 50 years now, with new plays opening as recently as seven months ago.

Foote has two Academy Awards under his belt (for "To Kill a Mockingbird" and "Tender Mercies") and one Pulitzer Prize (for "The Young Man From Atlanta").

Actor Robert Duvall, whose role in "Tender Mercies" bagged him an Oscar, described Foote's writing as "rural Chekhov, simple but deep . . . You can't push it. You have to just let it lay there." This describes Foote himself who, like his scripts, just lies there, quietly persevering.

Yeast

"You have to watch out with my plays," he said. "They're like yeast. You think they're one thing; then all of a sudden the subtext gets to working."

John Patrick, the last interviewee, is under the chapter with the heading "Happy Ending." We find this ironic, though Brown certainly didn't intend it to be, because Patrick also committed suicide (though he did so years after the interview).

In Brown's interview, he certainly sounds content, living on a Carribean island and, ironically, earning money from his failures, not his hits. "He tasted fame, swallowed failure, said, 'A plague on both your houses,' and headed for the Carribean," writes Brown.

His most famous play, "The Teahouse of the August Moon," won him a Pulitzer and a Tony. "I'm glad I won them," he told Brown. He also wrote the screenplays for "Teahouse," "High Society," "Three Coins in the Fountain," "Love Is a Many Splendored Thing," "The World of Suzie Wong," "Les Girls," and "Gigot."

Craft

"I can sit here for the rest of my life turning out plays like sausages, which I do," he said from his home on St. Thomas, one of the Virgin Islands. "It's a craft," he told Brown. "That's all. And I'm a pretty good craftsman. If I were a carpenter I'd say the same thing: 'I can build a good outhouse.' My plays are assembled like very good outhouses."

Unfortunately, Patrick didn't live happily ever after in his Carribean island retreat. He spent the last years of his life in a Florida assisted-care facility where he was found dead in his room with a plastic bag over his head. So it wasn't a happy ending, though he certainly tried to make it one.

We take comfort, then, in Foote's continued cheerfulness, and in the knowledge that Inge and Patrick are still rendered immortal by their writings.

FOOTE. Despite everything, he remains optimistic.

'Real Women Have Curves' . . .

From page E4

suggests.

Ana, who earned a high school scholarship to Beverly Hills, does not see or appreciate the hard work put in by her mother and Estela until she is forced to steam gowns and sweep floors at the factory for the summer.

"This is a sweatshop!" she announces, irritating a half-dozen Hispanic seamstresses who don't like to be disrespected by someone who can't even set a hem.

Joyful outburst

She later earns back their affection by stripping down to her underwear on a sweltering day, a joyful outburst that ignites a cascade of glee as workers put aside their vanity and display their lumps and cellulite with pride.

A big scholarship comes in, threatening to sweep Ana off to the East Coast and into an Ivy League world. Carmen says no. Ana says yes.

Someone is going to be disappointed.

Ferrera and Ontiveros won a special acting award at the 2002 Sundance Film Festival for their battles, and the movie itself won the festival's audience award.

Lopez has a fine feel for society's invisible people: those who are heavy, out of money, out of chances—or female in a conservative culture. A stubborn mother is only one of the obstacles blocking Ana from a college education.

Cardoso's camera roams throughout East Los Angeles, focusing on small bodegas, rundown bus stops and street corners. At times, the film feels more like a documentary than fiction, and lacks the drama that more emphasis on the narrative would provide.

"Real Women Have Curves," HBO Films' first feature released in theaters, runs 85 minutes. Two-and-one-half stars out of four. *AP*

Desi Arnaz Jr. . . .

From page E4

formed in Las Vegas and in California.

On a recent night, the band took the stage inside the historic Boulder Theatre that Arnaz and his wife bought in 1999. The crowd of 390 people cheered and sang along as Arnaz beat the drums and belted out tunes with his buddies.

Weeks later, almost the entire theater had been gutted. New plumbing, electrical wiring and carpeting are being installed. Next year, the 71-year-old theater will get new seats. *AP*

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'The Good Girl' finally makes Jennifer Aniston a real star

By Christy Lemire

NEW YORK—"The Good Girl" will finally make Jennifer Aniston a real star.

She's chosen big roles in bad movies ("Picture Perfect," "Rock Star"), and small roles in good movies that few people saw ("Office Space"). And she's been held back from film stardom because she's so closely associated with Rachel Green, her "Friends" TV character for the past decade.

All that will change with "The Good Girl."

Slapdash ponytail

Her once trendsetting hair is pulled back in a slapdash ponytail, she wears no makeup, and her wardrobe consists entirely of baggy flannel shirts.

The real transformation, however, occurs within.

As Justine, a miserable discount store employee in a tiny Texas town, her isolation and restlessness are palpable—a real testament to the depth of talent she's hinted at but never had a chance to display, until now.

Justine works at the cosmetics counter, where the monotony of long days under fluorescent lights is broken up only by subversive public address announcements from her co-worker, Cheryl (a hilarious, scene-stealing Zooey Deschanel).

Twang

("The Good Girl" was shot in Southern California, but it nails the kitsch and the twang of small-town Texas.)

ANISTON. Her character's isolation and restlessness are palpable.

Justine has been married for seven years to lazy but lovable Phil (John C. Reilly), who works as a house painter but would rather sit on the couch all day and smoke pot with his buddy, Bubba (Tim Blake Nelson).

So when a new cashier (Jake Gyllenhaal) starts working at the store—a quiet, younger man who calls himself Holden after the anti-hero of "The Catcher in the Rye"—she's immediately drawn to him.

"I saw in your eyes that you hate the world," Justine tells him the first time they're alone together. "I hate it too."

And so they begin a passionate, doomed affair, which plays out over furtive lunch breaks and in cheap motels.

But Bubba discovers Justine's infidelity and blackmails her, just as Justine discovers she's pregnant—and she knows the baby can't be her husband's, because he's sterile. The good girl must figure out how to fix the bad things she's done.

The movie comes from the same people who made "Chuck & Buck" two years ago—director Miguel Arteta and writer Mike White—in which White played a man-child with an unhealthy attachment to his best friend.

Much wider audience

It has a similar darkness, and occasionally a similar creepiness, but its subject matter is easier to take and its cast is better known, so it should have a much wider audience.

The third act gets a bit repetitive, though, and Holden grows annoyingly melodramatic. ("I want to knock your head open and see what's inside," he gushes to Justine in one of his intense attempts at poetry.) But the details and dialogue in White's script always ring true—and he steals his own share of scenes as a judgmental, ultrareligious security guard.

All the performances from the stellar supporting cast are excellent, but again, this is Aniston's show.

"The Good Girl," a Fox Searchlight Pictures release, runs 94 minutes. Three stars (out of four). *AP*

Desi Arnaz Jr. enjoys quiet life

By Angie Wagner

BOULDER CITY, Nevada—In an old movie theater, up a creaky staircase, Desi Arnaz Jr. gestures to freshly painted cotton candy walls and a tiny room stuffed with ballerina tutus.

"Kooky, huh?" he says, surveying the mass of costumes.

It's not exactly the makings of a major Hollywood production, but fixing up the old Boulder City theater for his wife's ballet students is what excites him these days.

Spiritual awakening

Fifteen years ago, the son of two of television's most famous stars—Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz—left Hollywood and found a spiritual awakening in this small Nevada town near Hoover Dam.

He met his wife, Amy, here, and together they bought the theater and settled in for a life Arnaz wasn't sure he would ever have.

"I'm happier now than I've ever been," says the 49-year-old Arnaz, whose graying hair and chocolate eyes still hint at the young man girls swooned over in the 1960s.

He's restless and uptight, wary of questions because, he says, "I don't *know* you." But he soon relaxes over a Reuben sandwich at the Boulder Dam Cafe, with his wife sitting by his side.

"I'm not a person who wanted to be in it," he says of show business. "I was born in it."

Caesarean section

"I Love Lucy," starring Ball and her husband, debuted on Oct. 15, 1951, and ran until 1957. Arnaz's birth by Caesarean section in 1953 happened the same night that Ball's character, Lucy Ricardo, gave birth to Little Ricky on the TV sitcom.

The birth made headlines, and Ball estimated that one million people sent gifts and messages of congratulations. "I was a well-planned accident. I've told the story a million times before," Arnaz says with exasperation.

The real son and the fictional one, played by Keith Thibodeaux, became best friends, and Arnaz was often mistaken for the Little Ricky character.

BOULDER THEATRE
CHAUTAUQUA
SEPT 6 AND 7
ARNAZ and his wife in front of their old movie theater in Boulder City.

He acknowledges an unusual childhood growing up with older sister, Lucie, his mother and Cuban-born father. His relationships with his family, he says, were emotional and powerful.

It was strange, he says, to watch Lucy and Ricky Ricardo solve a problem in a half-hour television sitcom, then look over and see Ball and Arnaz as his real-life parents.

Band

When he was 12, he formed a band with friends Dino Martin, son of singer Dean Martin, and Billy Hinsche, who went on to play with the Beach Boys. Dino, Desi & Billy had a few hits.

Arnaz starred with his sister and mother in "Here's Lucy" from 1968-1971 and also appeared in several feature films and stage productions.

But by 16, he had turned to drugs and alcohol to escape the pressures of growing up with celebrity parents.

"I wanted to know who I was," he says. "No one knew who I was."

That changed at 27, when he met Vernon Howard, a spiritual teacher who wrote books such as "The Mystic Path to Cosmic Power" and "The Power of Your Supermind."

Arnaz embraced Howard's lessons of resisting the temptation of power and finding meaning in life. He became a national spokesman for Howard's nonprofit literary foundation, and credits Howard, who died in 1992, with helping him get sober.

Arnaz first visited Boulder City in 1978 for one of Howard's classes. After a brief marriage to actress Linda Purl and more visits to Boulder City for Howard's lectures, he began dating Amy.

Dance studio

"I liked Desi because he was very interested in the spiritual side of life," his wife says. "He liked my dance studio. He was so down-to-earth, plus I thought he was very handsome."

They were married in 1987, making their home in this quiet town of about 15,500, about 25 miles southeast of Las Vegas.

Boulder City, with no gambling and an ordinance that limits the number of residents, turned out to be exactly what Arnaz needed. In 1998, he re-formed his band, replacing Dino Martin, who was killed in a 1987 plane crash, with his brother, Ricci Martin. Now, Ricci, Desi & Billy have a CD and have per-

DESI/ E3

'Real Women Have Curves' is a poignant coming-of-age tale

By Sheila Norman-Culp

NEW YORK—What is more universal than the age-old tussle between mothers and daughters?

Struggle

Newcomer America Ferrera and stage-and-screen veteran Lupe Ontiveros duke it out with gusto in "Real Women Have Curves," a poignant coming-of-age tale that celebrates the struggle of Hispanic women.

While Ferrera proves that sullen, know-it-all teenagers exist across all boundaries of class, race and ethnicity, Ontiveros shows that parents don't have to have family fortunes to be domineering, unreasonable, spiteful and selfish.

Working-class families can have all the psychosis and drama of the upper class, abeit without the cash.

This clash of generations and personalities comes via a host of Latina artists. "Real Women Have Curves" is based on the play by Josefina Lopez, who also wrote the screenplay and has a small part. It was directed by Patricia Cardoso, a Fulbright scholar from Colombia who won a student Academy Award and studied at UCLA.

Scholarship

It's the summer after high school in the Hispanic enclave of East Los Angeles, and 18-year-old Ana Garcia (Ferrera) is trying to figure out what to do next. Her teacher (George Lopez) wants her to apply for a college scholarship while her mother Carmen (Ontiveros) insists she stay at home and work in her sister Estela's (Ingrid Oliu) dress factory.

ANA (Ferrera) tries to figure out what to do next.

Carmen went to work at 13, raised a family and does not see why that is not enough for Ana. She also is obsessed by Ana's weight—buxom would be the right term—seemingly oblivious to the fact that both she and her husband are as squarely built as they come.

"Can't you see she is bigger than the cake?" Carmen moans, trying to keep Ana from having a piece of her own graduation cake.

Carmen works as a skilled seamstress for Estela but her lack of education emerges in many ways, including mistaking the onset of menopause for a pregnancy.

"Maybe it's just gas," Ana

REAL/ E3

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM OCT 26-NOV 1

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	43
SAT	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:00 Mary d' Potter 9:00 Klasmeyts 10:30 Sapul Kayo Dyan 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited	6:00 Fox News 11:00 Business and Leisure	6:30 Wing Commander 7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Family Feud 8:30 Wow Mall! 9:30 Saturday Night 11:30 Star Trek Voyager	6:00 Dragon Ball Z 6:30 Imbestigador 7:30 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:30 Kakabakaba 9:30 Blockbuster Cinema *Bukas na Lang Kita Mamahalin* 11:30 Master Showman	6:00 Entertainment Tonite 6:30 Hot Ticket 7:00 Largo 8:00 7 Days 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse *South Border with Kyla* 11:00 *Gary Valenciano Hits Onstage Part 2*	7:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 8:00 Star For A Night 9:00 Viva Box Office 11:00 Kagat ng Dilim	6:00 Travel Time 6:30 The Beast Machines 7:00 Game Plan 7:30 7th Heaven 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 11:30 Reel Deal	7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras Ng Katolohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Weekend 7:30 Nearly Famous 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Wayne Newton* 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On Sin City 2002
SUN	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Home Along Da Riles 9:30 Sunday Family Cinemas 11:30 Off The Record 12:00 The Weekend News	8:00 The Working President 9:00 Fox News 11:00 Unlimited Driving	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Price Is Right 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 The Big Night	5:30 Partners Mel & Jay 7:00 KI 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office *101 Dalmatians* 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Entertainment This Weekend 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Match TV 9:00 Sunday's Big Event *Anna Karenina* 11:00 Road Trip	8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 Viva's Hot Hits	6:00 Invasion America 6:30 Digital Tour 7:00 Exposed 8:00 Grosse Pointe 8:30 Spin City 9:00 Will & Grace 10:30 Points of View 11:30 News Central	7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night movies	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 In Focus 7:30 Nearly Famous 8:00 Celebrity Profile 9:30 In Focus Vegas Special *Club Vegas* 10:30 *High Rollers* 11:00 *Vegas Weddings*
MON	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Bituin 7:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 FPJ Action Cinema 10:30 Headlines 11:00 The Correspondants	6:00 Fox News 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 F 7:00 Mahha Go Go Go 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Poltergeist: The Legacy 9:30 Trabaho Lang 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Fashion TV	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 7:00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Kung Mawawala Ka 8:30 Ready Txt Go 9:00 GMA's Best 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Worlds Most Amazing Videos 8:00 Jag 9:00 24 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:00 Sex & the City	6:00 Carlita de Angel 7:00 Crayon Shin Chan 8:00 Kurochan 9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 Diwa 11:00 IBC News	6:00 The Three Stooges 6:30 Starship Troopers 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Buffy 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katolohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Behind the Scenes 7:30 Mysteries and Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 FYE 10:00 Wild On *Oktoberfest Special*
[illegible]	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Bituin 7:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 OK Final Whatever 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Pipol	6:00 Fox News 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Fora Medica 11:00 Auto Focus	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Dragon League 7:00 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 E.R. 9:30 Urban Doktor 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Mad TV	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 7:00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Kung Mawawala Ka 8:30 Ready Txt Go 9:00 Kool Ka Lang 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Ed 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight	6:00 Challenge of the Mastersl 9:00 Sine Shawie 11:00 IBC News	6:00 The Three Stooges 6:30 Starship Troopers 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Dawson's Creek 9:00 Smallville 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katolohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Extreme Close Up 7:30 Mysteries and Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 FYE 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Big Easy*
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Claudine Barretto plays her first sexy role in 'Kailangan Kita'

By Jocelyn Valle

"YES," nods Claudine Barretto, when shown one of the publicity shots for "Kailangan Kita," "it's not my natural skin tone. I went to a tanning salon a few times to achieve that look."

Sensuality workshop

She also had to take a sensuality workshop to play her first sexy role. "Because I have the tendency to be shy," she explains. One exercise required her to walk around the Talent Center area inside the ABS-CBN compound wearing a white shirt, sans bra. "*Naiilang talaga ako,*" she recalls.

But Claudine was discouraged from watching movies like the Penelope Cruz starrer, "Woman on Top" that bear some similarities to "Kailangan Kita." For instance, both films have female lead characters who are innately good cooks and discover their sensuality.

Tool

But the parallelisms end there. In Star Cinema's latest offering, the love of cooking is just a tool to make its protagonists, New York chef Carl (Aga Muhlach) and Bicolana lass Lena (Barretto), get close and fall in love in the process.

Rory Quintos' film is also about the Filipino family. A tragedy propels Lena to devote her life to her family. Carl severs his ties with the country of his birth after his father abandons his brood.

The story is set in Bicol and the production takes advantage of majestic Mayon volcano as a cinematic backdrop.

Aside from its famed landmark and hot dishes, the production also shows Bicol's other treasures—its culture, people and livelihood. "We even learned how to dance the Pantomina," Claudine smiles. "*Sinasayaw daw 'yan kapag may kasal.*"

In "Kailangan Kita," Carl goes back to the country to marry Lena's older sister who's a model in New York. In real life, Aga used to date Claudine's Ate Gretchen. The former lovebirds have since found the loves of their lives.

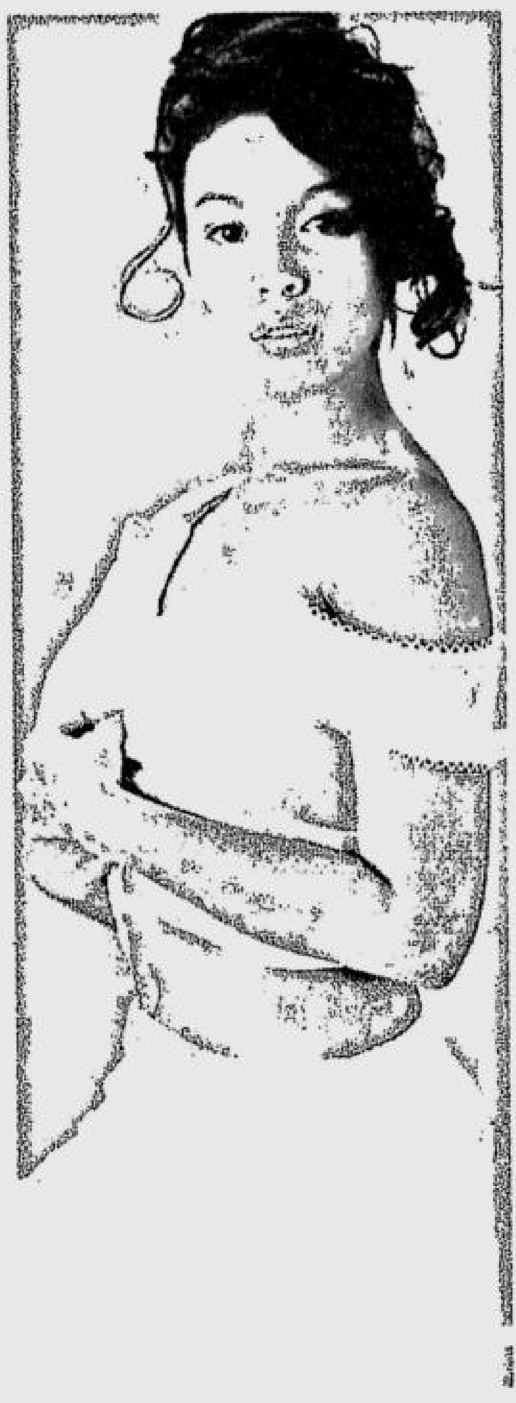
Suitor

And Claudine? Well, she has an ardent suitor in actor Raymart Santiago. Whenever their schedules permit, Raymart visits her.

"*Hindi naman nakasara ang puso ko,*" she smiles, now that she's on her way to recovery after the death of Rico Yan. "Getting in a relationship is really hard. At this point, *ayaw kong mawala ang kilig*. I'm feeling it again."

Yes, she sees herself having her own family. "I love kids!" she enthuses.

At the moment, she enjoys doting on her nephews and nieces. She's got 14 of them, some of whom are even older than her. Her mom was already in her 40s when she gave birth to Claudine, that's why.



BARRETTO. Had to overcome her shyness.

Iranian film director nixes American prize

By Parisa Hafezi

TEHRAN—Iranian film director Bahman Qobadi has handed back a Chicago film festival prize to protest the US government's failure to issue him a visa to collect the award, the director said on Wednesday.

Qobadi's film, "Marooned in Iraq" a follow-up to his hugely successful 2000 debut "A Time For Drunken Horses," was awarded the 38th Chicago International Film Festival's Gold Plaque.

"With many thanks to the festival organizers I am handing over my prize to the American government in order to teach them how to respect artists," Qobadi told Reuters.

Tighter immigration policy

Qobadi was the second leading Iranian film figure in less than a month to fall foul of tighter US immigration policy.

Earlier this month, acclaimed film director Abbas Kiarostami also failed to obtain a US visa to attend the New York Film Festival.

"What they did to Kiarostami is terrible, he is a famous film director and does not deserve such treatment," Qobadi said.

Washington has labelled Iran as part of an "axis of evil," accusing it of sponsoring terrorism and seeking to acquire weapons of mass destruction. Iran strongly denies the charges.

Response

Iran last week barred CNN's chief international correspondent Christiane Amanpour from entering the country in what it said was a tit-for-tat response to the US government's denial of visas to Iranian journalists and artists.

Other Iranian filmmakers also criticized the US government, saying that art should not be influenced by politics.

"This move is condemned because America claims to support peace and democracy," Maziar Miri, a film director, told Reuters.

"Art is above politics and hostilities. It should remain like that," said Miri.

International film festivals have become an important release valve for Iranian filmmakers whose work is often heavily censored at home.

Directors such as Qobadi have won a host of awards at festivals in recent years, including the Golden Camera for Best Film at Cannes in 2000 for "A Time for Drunken Horses." That film dealt with a group of Kurdish orphans who are forced to make a living from smuggling and gave vodka to their horses so that they did not feel fatigue in the extremely cold weather.

Qobadi's new film focuses on the escapades of an ageing singer who crosses the border into Iraq with his two musician sons to search for his ex-wife.

Moderate Iranian President Mohammad Khatami has been pressing to create a more relaxed cultural climate in the Islamic Republic since his 1997 landslide election win.

But Khatami's efforts have been blocked by his conservative rivals who control key levers of power in the country and are mostly appointed by Iran's most powerful figure, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Conservatives strongly accuse reformists of paving the way for a "western cultural onslaught" among the Iranian youth.

They berate award-winning Iranian film directors for making films which are liked mostly by westerners but which do not reflect the realities of the country. *Reuters*

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SAMPLE QUESTION: Ilang PureTxt 100 cards ang mabibili mo sa P200?

REG Mike Santos #2 Gil St., Lagro, Q.C.	2868	2	2868

To join, type REG <full name> <address> and send to 2868.

To answer, type <answer> and send to 2868.

Other keywords:

- Q - to get the question for the day
- HELP - to get all keywords for the game
- PTS - to check the number of entries you sent
- OFF - to turn off your daily reminder
- ON - to turn on your daily reminder
- RULES - to get game rules

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SATURDAY Special

THE SECOND "Lord of the Rings" film will be released before Christmas.

Potter and Baggins to go head-to-head at box office

Story on page F2

... AS will the new "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets."

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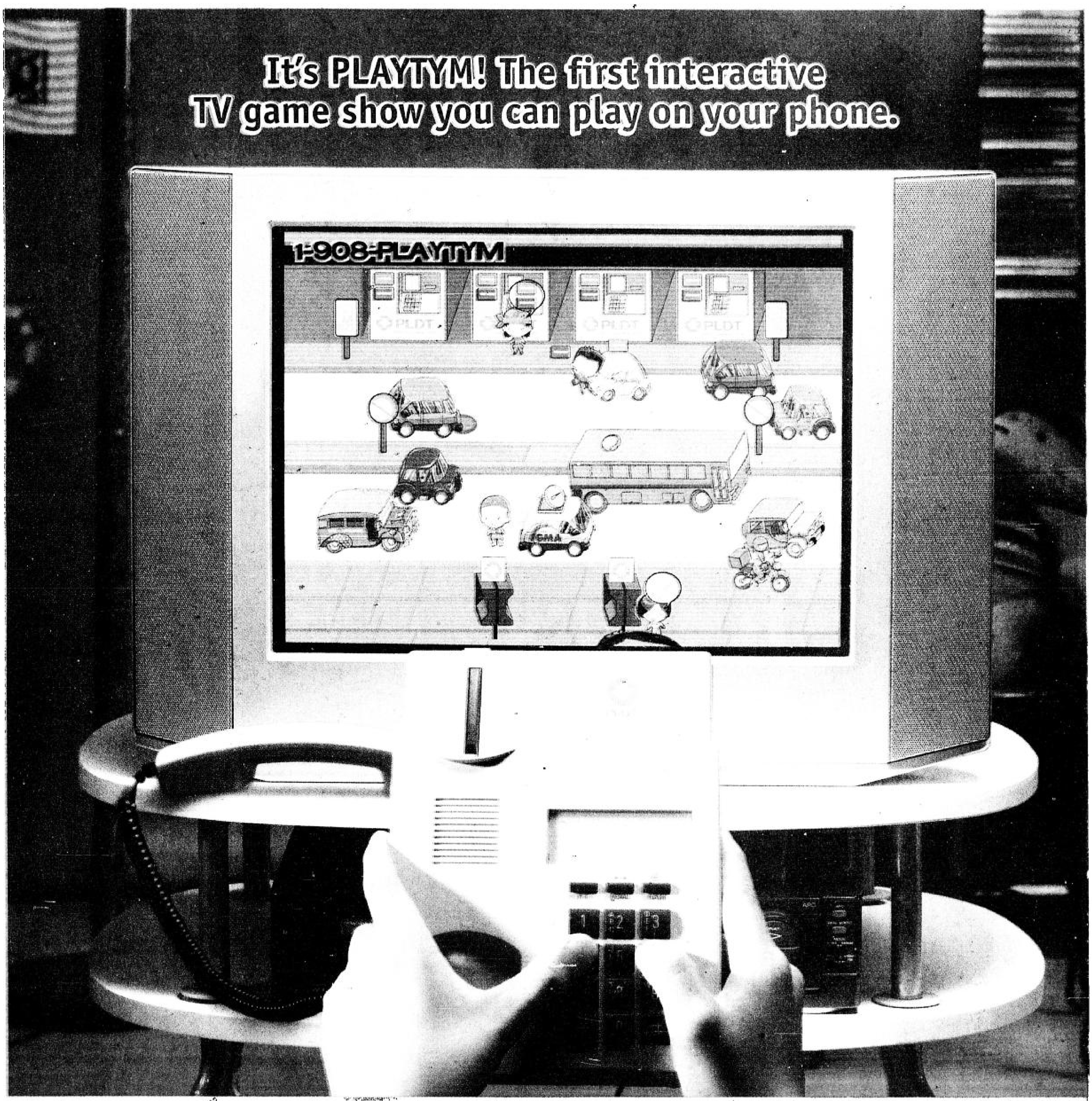

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How to join:

Dial 1-908-PLAYTYM
Choose the date of the game you want to play.
Leave your name, address, phone number, age and birthday.

How to play:

Game starts at 4:25 pm, every Monday to Friday on GMA 7.
You will play against three other contestants.
Object of the game is to cross the street and get as many PLDT cards as you can without being hit. Players who get hit while crossing the street have to start again.
Move characters by pressing telephone keys:

2 (up), 4 (left), 5 (down), 6 (right) to cross the street safely.

Bring the PLDT cards to the phone booth and dial the numbers displayed on the screen.

Hosted by Game Jocks from Click: Sherwin Ordoñez, Chynna Ortaleza, Bryan Revilla, Danica Sotto & Karen delos Reyes.

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GMA PLDT

Dinner with President Arroyo

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

WHEN you are invited to dinner with President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo at the Palace, you drop everything to be on time—except you can't rely on smooth traffic, so Monica Feria and I were delayed for 30 minutes!

Gracious

But the president was genuinely gracious and asked us to join her and the other Bulong Pulungan ladies at the dining table.

That evening she was relaxed and expansive, touching on a lot of topics, sometimes asking that some issues be "Off the record, please!" Otherwise, she answered all our questions candidly.

That was our first up-close encounter with her, and I must say we went away impressed and more appreciative of the difficulties of being president at this time, when not only is the country in trouble with home-grown terrorists running wild, but also with the global economy's slow recovery—plus the threat of a war in Iraq.

The deeply-spiritual chief executive starts and ends her day with prayers. She does not mind doing unpopular things if they will redound to the greater good. She also brushes aside talk of 2004 and her quest for another term, telling us, "It's still too early… there is so much work to be done."

Habit

President Gloria told us that she makes it a habit to read all newspapers of consequence every morning. At night she watches the news on TV before retiring with a book to read.

She is a "*balikbayan*" in the Palace, having been there before with her dad. But she remembers that the Palace then was more airy and open, with windows looking out on the Pasig. Imelda Marcos redecorated and renovated the Palace and closed it up like the pyramids of Egypt.

President Gloria was generous with praise for her performing cabinet members and appointed officials like MMDA's chairman Bayani Fernando, even calling him an "inspiration in common sense." But she was equally vocal about her displeasure at some officials for their incompetence and perceived wrongdoings.

Portraits

Although we overstayed our welcome, lingering in the glittering reception hall with its portraits of past presidents, she gamely posed for souvenir photographs. Her portrait by Lulu Coching easily stands out as it portrays her as a glowing-from-the-inside, young and vibrant Chief Executive.

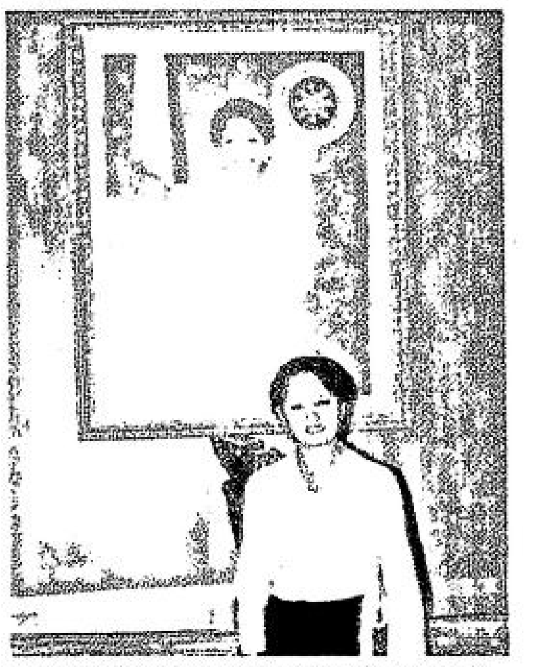
She admits that portrait, a gift from Pagcor, is her favorite among the many given to her.

It was a pleasure to have broken bread with her and observe her at close range. She has certainly changed since she took over, but we think it's for the better. She is trimmer and dresses fashionably—corporate and ethnic, and even sporty when the occasion calls for it.

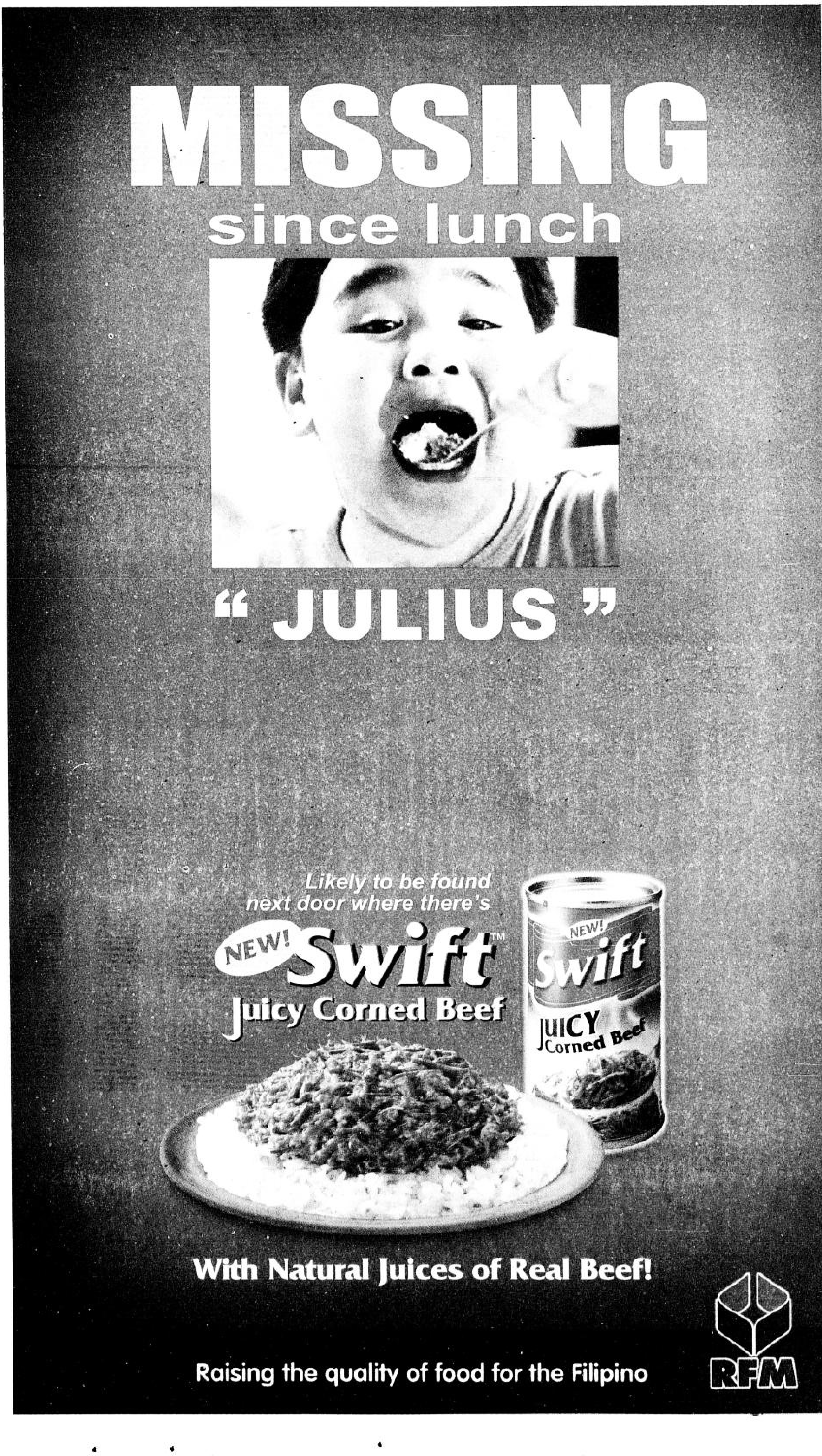
She has "presidential bearing" now, is more sure of herself, has a superb grasp of issues, and an uncanny memory for names, places and events. She knows Mindanao like the palm of her hand, too.

We were quite heady when we stepped out into the fresh air of the Palace grounds. Was it the wine, or the company? Both!

FROM left, Mandy Navasero, Nellie Sindayan, Sandee Siytangco-Masigan, Deedee Siytangco, President Arroyo, Aida Mendoza, Chay Santiago, Monica Feria and Domini Torrevillas.



THE PRESIDENT with her favorite portrait, by Lulu Coching.



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Potter and Baggins to go head-to-head at the box office

By Paul Majendie

LONDON—Harry Potter is to lock horns with Frodo Baggins in the Battle of the Hollywood Blockbusters Part II—and this time it could be a close run contest at the box office.

Film debut

Teenage wizard Harry Potter's film debut was eagerly awaited last year by millions of children, and when he took to the silver screen, "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" earned an astonishing $965 million. Only "Titanic" has ever done better.

Devoted fans of J.R.R. Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings" flocked to the first film in the trilogy but the epic tale of Frodo Baggins and his intrepid Hobbit friends still trailed by $105 million behind Potter.

Now they are ready to do battle again with pre-Christmas releases.

First off the blocks in mid-November is "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" followed in December by the second "Lord of the Rings" movie. It could be a tight finish.

"The whole worldwide difference last time was accounted for by Japan," said Robert Mitchell, box office analyst at Screen International Magazine.

"In Japan, 'Lord of the Rings' opened much later and, by the time it got there, had 'Masterpiece Label' stuck on it. The under-25s didn't go and see it as they feared it would be long-winded," he told Reuters.

Sequels

"I suspect 'Harry Potter' will beat 'Lord of the Rings' but I think there is a chance it might be closer. Both might drop.

"Most sequels don't do as much as the first one," he said.

Steven Gaydos, executive editor of the film bible Variety, agreed. "The novelty of the first Harry Potter movie was a huge one-time bonanza, and this time the gap with 'Lord of the Rings' will be smaller," he told London's Evening Standard.

Their screen rivalry has been matched in the bookstores of the world, where Potter is currently winning hands down.

J.K. Rowling's four tales of the teenage wizard have now sold 175 million copies in 59 languages, while Tolkien's saga, voted the best book of the 20th century in many millennium polls, has sold 100 million over the past half a century.

Same stable

As hype builds toward release of the two fantasy blockbusters, all the film industry talk may be of arch rivals at the box office—but the two sagas do come from the same stable.

Warner Bros, which makes the Potter films, and New Line Cinema, which created the Rings movie saga, are both part of troubled US media empire AOL Time Warner Inc. Movie success would be a welcome boost to the group, which is struggling to regain credibility with investors.

For, as Robert Mitchell concluded: "At the end of the day, they will be opening four or five weeks apart—they don't want to kill each other off."

Reuters

Sleeper hit

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

MOST Hollywood blockbusters topbill the biggest stars. One of the few exceptions to that rule is the current sleeper hit, "My Big Fat Greek Wedding."

It began as a very modest production starring non-luminaries like John Corbett and Nia Vardalos, and played in only a few theaters. But early viewers liked it so much that they mounted an enthusiastic word-of-mouth campaign that slowly but surely transformed the little movie into a big hit.

At the moment, it's already made $170 million, almost double what a movie has to gross for Hollywood to declare it a certified blockbuster. What does the production have that has made it the most successful independent movie of all time?

Answer: an update on the durable Romeo and Juliet love format, and very enthusiastic performances, especially from the actors who play the Greek characters in the film.

Story: A 30-year-old Greek-American woman is still unmarried, and this worries her family a lot. Then, she meets a high-school teacher and they fall in love—but her family gets even more worried, because he isn't Greek.

To get around their objections, she convinces her fiance to get baptized in the Greek Orthodox Church, so they can have a regulation big, fat Greek wedding—complete with one powder-blue limousine, two ice sculptures, 10 bridesmaids in turquoise dresses, a five-layer wedding cake with a plastic staircase, and a champagne fountain!

The question is, can they survive the gastronomical and cross-cultural extravaganza with their love intact?

Storytelling at Powerbooks Alabang

Powerbooks invites kids aged from five to 10 years to a special Halloween storytelling and activity at Powerbooks Alabang from 2 to 4 p.m. today.

Thrilling stories will be told, and there will be fun games, other activities and prizes. Call 850-5662 or email ibid@powerbooks.com.ph.

MTV in Davao

MTV Philippines takes its "Sama Ka Na" campaign to the South today by way of a performance at the Waterfront Insular Hotel Garden Tent in Davao, culminating in an exciting Masquerade Ball in anticipation of Halloween. Performing are two winners of the MTV Pilipinas Awards, Karylle and Rivermaya.

MTV fans are also invited to join the "MTV Sama Ka Na Music Trivia Text Challenge," ongoing until Dec. 16. Do you know Michael Jackson's real skin color? The real name of Bono of U2? Avril Lavigne's gender? If so, type "MTV" on your cell phones; if you're a Globe subscriber, send to 2954, and if you're a Smart subscriber, send to 2494.

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Justine Draper, Szhen Ramos and Sitti Navarro are the newest talents to perform at the Hyatt's famous Calesa Music Bar and Lounge.

Justine performs on Tuesdays, Szhen on Wednesdays, and Sitti on Thursdays. Showtime is at 9 p.m.

Calesa Bar has launched the careers of many of the country's best chanteuses, thanks to the mentoring of the venue's resident pianist, Rudy Francisco. It's hoped that these new discoveries will eventually join their stellar company.

KARYLLE (left) and Rivermaya take MTV Philippines' "Sama Ka Na" campaign to the South.

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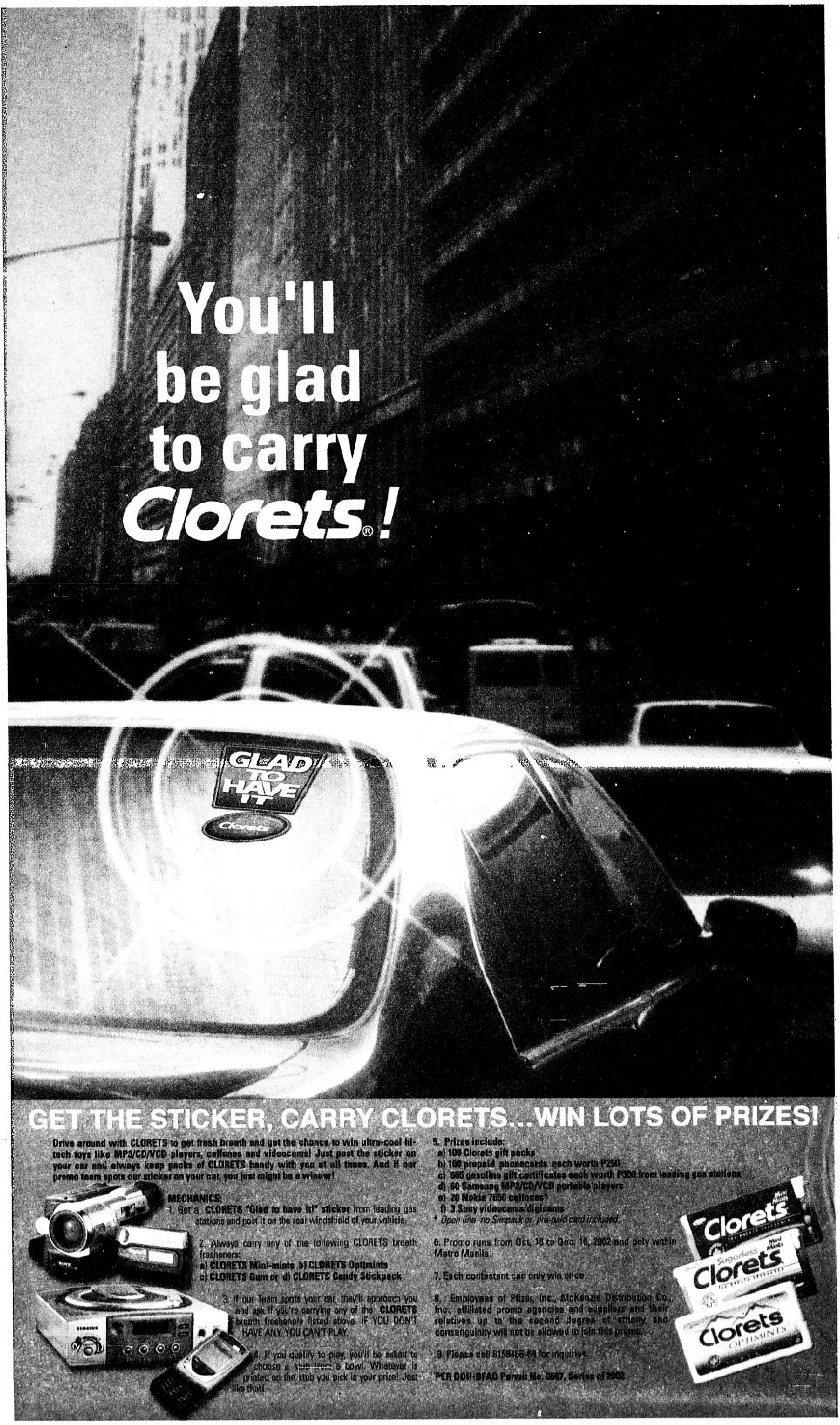

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2. Always carry any of the following CLORETS breath fresheners:
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5. Prizes include:
   a) 100 Clorets gift packs
   b) 100 prepaid phonecards each worth P250
   c) 685 gasoline gift certificates each worth P300 from leading gas stations
   d) 60 Samsung MP3/CD/VCD portable players
   e) 20 Nokia 7650 celfones*
   f) 3 Sony videocams/digicams
   * Open line- no Simpack or pre-paid card included
6. Promo runs from Oct. 18 to Dec. 16, 2002 and only within Metro Manila.
7. Each contestant can only win once.
8. Employees of Pfizer, Inc., McKenzie Distribution Co., Inc., affiliated promo agencies and suppliers and their relatives up to the second degree of affinity and consanguinity will not be allowed to join this promo.
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PER DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0587, Series of 2002

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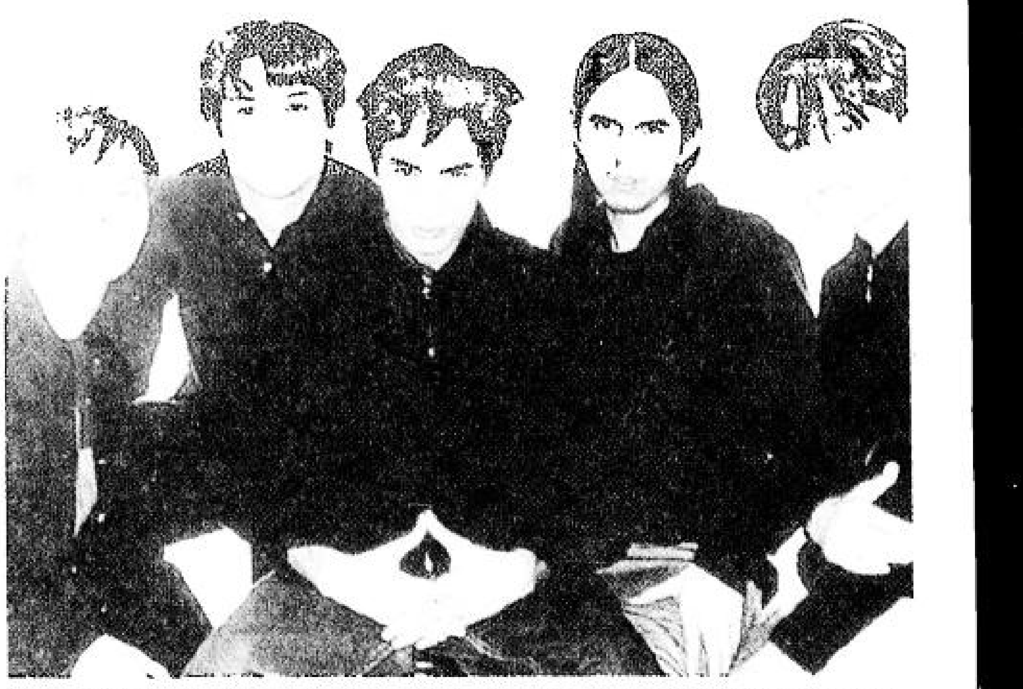

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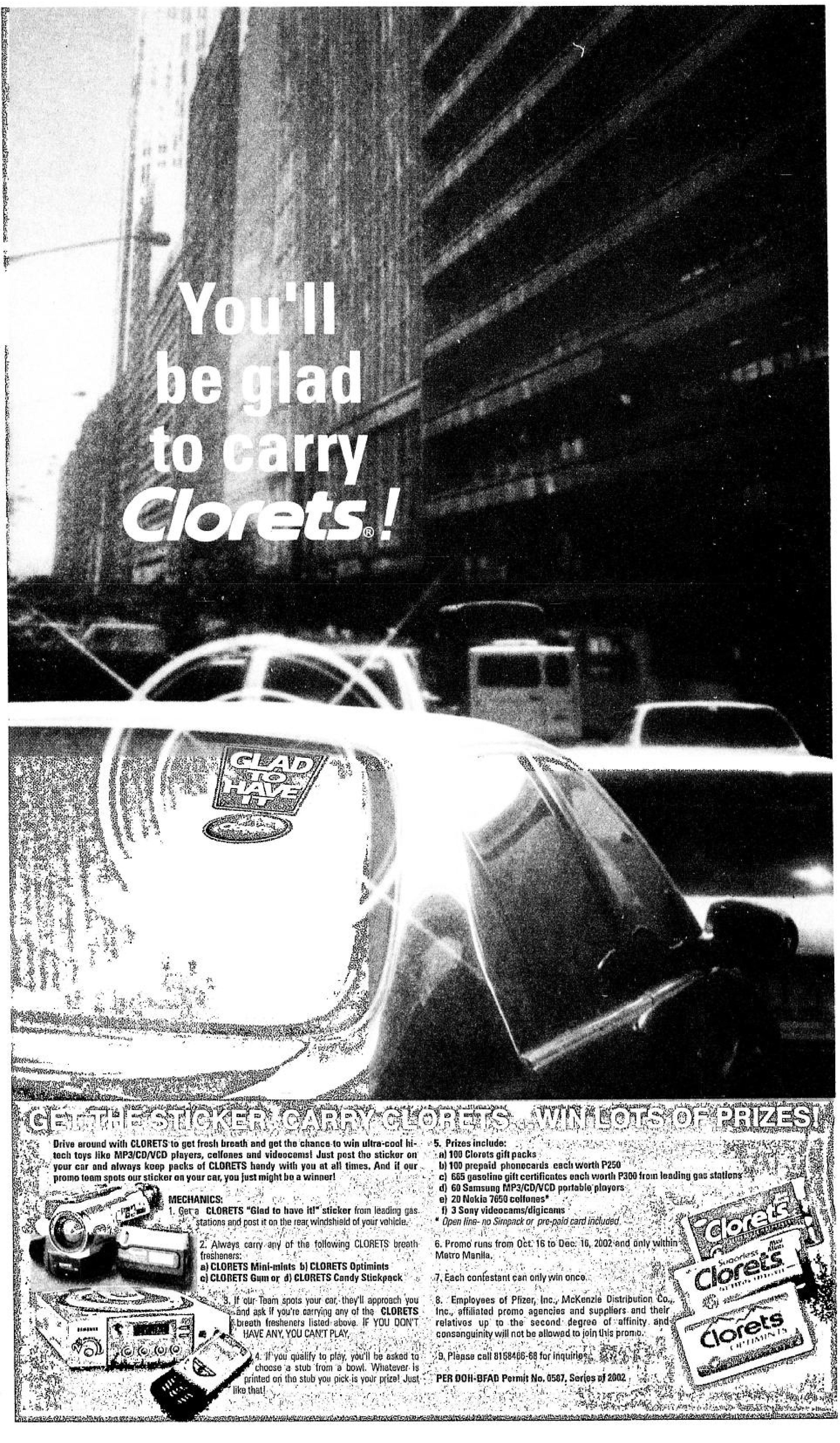

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SATURDAY *Special*

Faith Hill gets funky on newest album

By Jim Patterson

NASHVILLE, Tennessee—The first time Faith Hill recorded a rock song, it was a lightweight version of Janis Joplin's "Piece of My Heart."

That was back in 1993, and the small-town girl from Star, Mississippi, admitted that, as a die-hard Reba McEntire fan, she'd never heard Joplin's classic rock records.

What a difference the years have made.

Transformation

Hill's newest album, "Cry," released Oct. 15, is laced with R&B and rock, completing her transformation from country ingenue to full-blown pop diva.

"I don't know if it's risky or not," she says. "I hope my fans like it, but I'm sure there will be those who question it."

On the new album, Hill becomes a one-woman En Vogue on a song written by Pink, "If You're Gonna Fly Away." She tries a dramatic recitation on "Beautiful," a Motown groove on "Unsaveable" and edges into Barbra Streisand territory on "One." A plan to have Aerosmith lead singer Steven Tyler sing on the title track didn't work out.

Special

"It came very, very close, and it didn't happen," Hill says with disappointment, talking by cell phone from Los Angeles while being driven from a TV taping to a photo shoot. She was in New York last weekend for an appearance on "Saturday Night Live," and her own special airs on NBC Nov. 28.

Where she once naively chirped about being a "Wild One," Hill now sings with authority about being "Free," backed by percolating R&B rhythms and electronic effects.

"My fans have actually seen that side of me many, many times in concert. I've just never captured it on record like I have now," she says.

"It's just growth. It might sell 200,000 or it might sell 8 million. It would be heartbreaking if not as many people got to hear it, but I would still be very, very proud of it."

Odds are Hill won't be nursing a broken heart this time around. "Cry" is expected to be one of the year's top-selling albums.

Hill has already sold more than 25 million records, including 8 million of "Breathe," which won best country album in 2001—one of three Grammys for Hill that year.

She crossed over to the pop charts with hits like "This Kiss" and "The Way You Love Me," and the new material ventures further, away from wholesome pop for a more urban sound.

"I don't think the consumer cares how Hill's music is labeled," said Jim Ed Norman, president of her label, Warner Bros. Nashville. "It's either going to appeal to them or not."

Musical progression

Michael McCall, senior editor of Country Music Magazine, said Hill's latest sound is part of "a gradual but steady musical progression."

"If you're a purist, you were already upset about her," he said.

"I don't think it's a given that she's going to be a huge pop star, but it's certainly what they're going for."

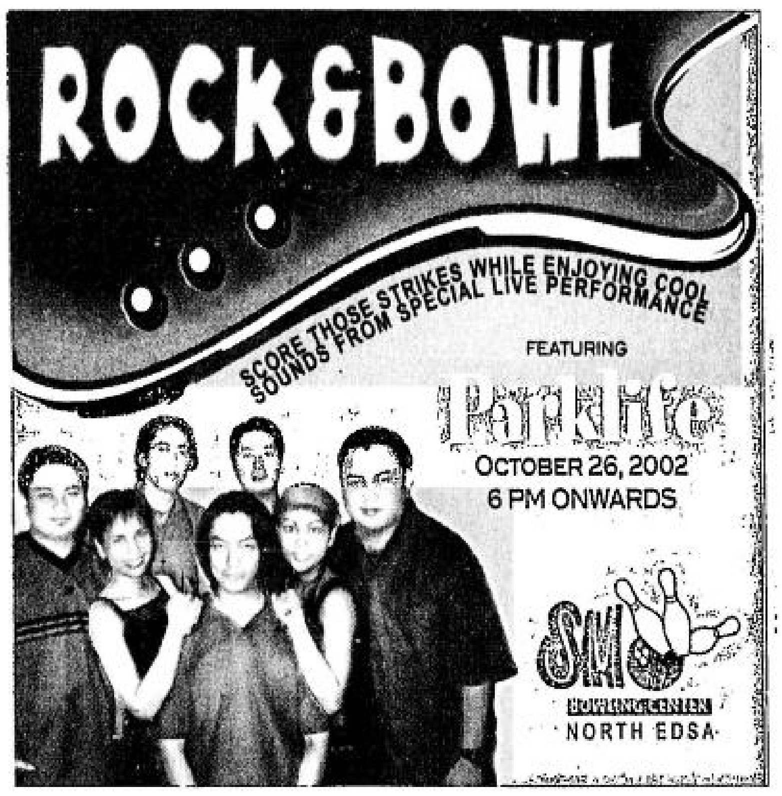
Hill, 35, says the album is a return to her roots, in a way.

"Most of my fans know where my music started, and that's the church," she said. "I have a very very strong, heavy gospel and R&B foundation . . . I just never have been able to find the songs that have allowed me to be free with it."

Growing up, Hill was in a choir that sang at Baptist and Pentecostal churches. To encourage her, her mother would give her 25 cents to

FAITH/ G2

HILL. From country ingenue to full-blown pop diva.



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Ashley Judd turns in consistently good performances

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

THIS week's Q&A:

From Marinel Galvez of Lucena City, **"I have always loved watching Ashley Judd's performances. Is it just me or is she underrated as an actress? Is she still with Michael Bolton? Please do an update on this beautiful actress."**

It is not just you who feels that way, Marinel. We have always believed in the talent of this beautiful actress ever since we saw her debut performance in 1993's "Ruby in Paradise."

Fortunately, we weren't the only one who noticed. She earned an Independent Spirit Award and a Chicago Film Critics nod for her performance in the film. We feel she belongs in the big leagues, up there with Julia and company. But sometimes, beauty and talent are not enough.

Either way, Ashley comes up with consistently good performances and lands movie assignments regularly.

Starrers

Her starrers have all been shown here: John Grisham's "A Time to Kill;" "Eye of the Beholder;" "Double Jeopardy;" "Where the Heart Is;" "Someone Like You," and the recent "High Crimes" and "The Divine Secrets of the Yaya Sisterhood."

In all these films, she turned in engaging and empathetic performances that went beyond the confines of genre. She made her characters human, not just caricatures. Sometimes it didn't matter if the movie was not so good, as long as her performances were.

She earned a Golden Globe and an Emmy nomination for her brilliant performance as the disturbed Marilyn Monroe in "Norma Jean and Marilyn," shown on local cable more than a year ago.

The 34-year-old actress is the daughter of country luminary Naomi Judd and sister of Wynnona, the mother-and-daughter duo of "The Judds." She once worked cleaning her mother and sister's tour bus for $10 a day.

Big role

She turned down a big role in Christian Slater's "Kuffs" because she was asked to do nude scenes. She explains, "My mother worked too hard for me to take my clothes off in my first movie."

The 5'7" vegetarian, who considers herself a feminist and an etymologist, graduated from the University of Kentucky as a French major. But prior to finishing her college education, Ashley attended 12 schools in 13 years!

Nope, she is not dating Michael Bolton, although she did go out with him. She has also dated Robert De Niro and Matthew McConaughey. But she is now married to race-car driver Dario Franchetti. They got wed last Dec. 12.

She has a lot on her artistic plate: the highly anticipated "Frida" with Salma Hayek, Edward Norton and Antonio Banderas; "The Husband I Bought," the movie adaptation of Ayn Rand's novella, with Vincent Perez and Charlize Theron; "Black Out," a thriller opposite Andy Garcia and Samuel Jackson, in which she plays a female police detective assigned to a case where she discovers all the murder victims are former boyfriends of hers—and, of course, the highly anticipated "Catwoman," the big-screen adaptation of Batman's feline fatale, alter-ego to Patience Price. (Michelle Pfeiffer played the character to great acclaim in 1992 in Tim Burton's dark "Batman Returns.")

REYNOLDS. Fear of flying.

From Patrice Tan of Antipolo, **"I enjoyed watching the goofy 'Van Wilder' movie and found its handsome star, Ryan Reynolds, exciting and promising. Where have I seen him before?"**

If Ryan looks familiar, it is probably because he starred in the sitcom, "Two Guys, A Girl and A Pizza Place" (it was telecast over RPN 9, and will be in syndication on Star World) as Michael Leslie Bergin.

First season

The show's first season was reviled by critics in the US. But it was renewed by its network, and went on to enjoy minor ratings success—and slightly better storylines.

JUDD. Four new films coming up.

Do you know that the 6'3" looker from Canada failed his high school drama class? He also has a fear of flying because he once went skydiving but his parachute failed to open on his the first attempt. Must have been quite an adrenaline rush, huh?

His next movies: "Buying the Cow," with Jerry O'Connell, Bridgette Wilson and Alyssa Milano (whose gross-out trailer we have already seen on the net) and "Till Death Do Us Part," with Michael Douglas and Albert Brooks.

How cyber-cinema ads work

By Rica Arevalo

NOWADAYS, there are a lot of ways to see a film: go to a cinema, download files from the Internet, rent tapes/VCDs or stay at home with your DVD player. The current bomb scare in the metropolis did stop me from watching a new local film in the mall. To make my family feel "secure," I stayed at home and watched some short films produced by a car company.

Upscale

A what? Yes, the upscale BMW car company hired Hollywood directors John Frankenheimer, Ang Lee, Wong Kar-Wai, Guy Ritchie and Alejandro González Iñárritu of "Amores Perros" fame to make their own short films.

BMW called the series, "The Hire" and it's targeted for techonology-savvy web-users. It is an internet union of advertising and entertainment and because it is a hit, the DVD compilation is now available. Each film is about five to seven minutes long. English actor Clive Owen ("The Bourne Identity," "Gosford Park") plays the Driver in all segments.

LEE. His short film stars his own son, Mason.

Frankenheimer's "Ambush" is an action-packed chase between a harmless-looking passenger with a $2-million diamond and a vanload of ambushers. Filming in downtown Los Angeles, Frankenheimer wanted to show "maximum stress" and it worked.

Chase

Most scenes were shot at night with the chase taking place in real time and speed. Watch out for the near-miss between an 18-wheeler truck and Owen's BMW 740i model.

Lee's "Chosen" is about an eight-year-old Tibetan boy (played by the director's son, Mason Lee) who needs to be kept in a safehouse. Owen picked up the boy using the 540i sedan in a dark pier and they were met by goons driving a Mercedes Benz.

Using baroque and Tibetan music, Lee chose to let the cars "dance" in a maze. The director admits in the DVD, "After doing 'Crouching Tiger,' I fell in love with choreography."

Ritchie's "Star" is a funny depiction of Madonna behaving like a prima-donna "superstar." Owen disliked the arrogant star, so it was a very fast and bumpy ride with Madonna being thrown out of the BMW M5 model and landing on the red carpet with coffee stains on her crotch. The press then started clicking their cameras, to the horror of the obnoxious diva.

War photographer

Iñárritu's "Powder Keg" stars Swedish Stellan Skarsgard as a war photographer in the middle of violence and his death. Owen is sent to drive and help Skarsgard escape.

The film looks like a documentary: shot in 16mm format, handheld, grainy and with a very high color contrast. Iñárritu wanted to show the love between Skarsgard and his mother while he was dying inside the vehicle with an unfamiliar man in an unknown country.

Kar-Wai's "The Follow" cannot be seen on the DVD (the trailer is available, though) and on the BMW website because of contractual obligations.

The directors had complete creative control over their films, says Ritchie, and because of this, the stories became personal rather than commercial.

Buzz

The series created a buzz in the advertising industry and because of its success, BMW Films is planning to produce feature-length independent digital films to be shown in theaters.

"The Hire" recently won Grand Prix Cyber Lion honors at the International Advertising Festival in Cannes. The next series debuts with Joe Carnahan's "Ticker" (Nov. 7) and Tony Scott's "Beat the Devil" (Nov. 21).

Since its premiere, "The Hire" has had 13 million views on www.bmwfilms.com. Try to visit the website or get a copy of the DVD so you can see how cyber-cinema ads work.

These comedians make local televiewers laugh

By Leia Torre

THESE days, it isn't enough for comedians to simply be funny--they have to be both funny and inventive. Here are some comedians who stand out, as cited by viewers:

Intense

"Jon Santos, *kasi* intense *siya pero magaan* at the same time. *Mahusay siyang mag*-parody *ng ibang tao. Gayang-gaya niya talaga, lalo na sina* Miriam, Armida, Loi, *at* Charo Santos-Concio.

"Babaeng-babae ang dating niya. Matalino din, di basta-basta ang panggagaya—mukhang pinag-iisipan niya talaga. Parang pinanganak siyang komediyante."—Katarina Abuloy, 26.

Wacky

"Ai-ai de las Alas. I love wacky humor, and she personifies it. *Yan ang taong talagang masasabi mong baliw*. But I think she manages to carry her 'craziness' well.

"I especially like it when she makes people laugh by botching up songs, like she did when she sang a supposed-to-be-duet with Lani Misalucha. It's a good thing that Lani was able to control herself from laughing out loud, because otherwise there would have been no one left to reach the highest notes of the song they were singing."*—Kaye David, 19.*

Versatile

"Ogie Alcasid. I think he's a very versatile comedian. *Nadadala niya kahit anong* style, whether it's slapstick or straight comedy. *Yung iba kasi, nagmumukhang kadiri na pag nagpapatawa. Si* Ogie, *hindi kadiri yung dating. Di rin* corny.

"I think he appeals to all types of viewers, because he can connect with anyone and make viewers feel what he wants them to. *Galing talaga!"—Mae Camba, 23.*

Natural

"Rufa Mae Quinto, a.k.a. 'Booba!' She was really funny in that movie. It's like she makes people laugh even when she's not trying to do so. She's very natural, *hindi pilit.*

"You can also see that she's an intelligent person by the way she delivers her punchlines. As a result, her jokes rarely fall flat. Her greatest talent is being sexy and making it funny. Whoever said that sexiness and merriment do not go together obviously hasn't had the chance to watch Rufa Mae in action yet."*—Yan-yan Reyes, 24.*

Effective

"Jon Santos. His impersonations are the best I've seen so far. They're very effective because he looks like whoever he's pretending to be, and he's good at observing those people's funny mannerisms.

"His Loi impersonation is truly inspired, although the others come very close behind, especially his Miriam Santiago. I like what he does because he manages to take these public figures down a peg or two without causing undue harm —except maybe to his victims' sense of humor."*—Philip Gracios, 25.*

ALCASID. Appeals to all types of viewers.

SANTOS. At his best when he impersonates female celebrities.

Aguilera video's allusions to sex industry enrage Thais

AGUILERA. The controversial video is for her new song, "Dirrty."

BANGKOK, Thailand—One of pop diva Christina Aguilera's latest music videos has Thais decrying not its explicit dancing and revealing costumes but a Thai-language billboard in the backdrop that alludes to the country's sex industry.

Saharat Wannachomphu, marketing director for BMG Thailand Co., the local distributors of Aguilera's new album, said the company had decided not to air the video for the song "Dirrty" on local television, the Nation newspaper reported Wednesday.

Boxing ring

In the video, the scantily clad 22-year-old pop star dances in a boxing ring next to a wall with posters in Thai that read "Thailand's sex tourism" and "Young underage girls."

Thai officials have expressed their dismay with the video, which was aired repeatedly by the Nation's cable television station on its news programs reporting the controversy.

The Nation newspaper quoted Preecha Kantiya, acting director for the government's Commission on Contemporary Arts Office, as saying local and foreign businessmen are too profit-oriented to present a genuine image of Thailand.

Business goals

Instead, they preferred to use Thailand's seedier side to serve their business goals, he said.

"We at the company agreed that we should not think of business only," BMG's Saharat told the Nation newspaper. "We have to think about our country as well."

Parent company

He said BMG Thailand had informed its parent company in the United States that the video had upset Thais.

Thailand's Culture Ministry and Foreign Ministry would take further action if the video was found to be damaging to Thailand's reputation, said Preecha, without detailing what that might entail.

Although prostitution is illegal in Thailand, it is widespread and generally ignored by police. *AP*

Faith Hill gets funky on newest album

From page G1

sing at family get-togethers. By 19, she decided to move to Nashville to try her luck as a singer.

One of Hill's early jobs there was packaging fan merchandise for McEntire and selling T-shirts at the annual country music Fan Fair.

After six years in Nashville, she scored her first record deal, with Warner Bros., and her first single—"Wild One"—went to No. 1. She shifted to a more pop sound and scored more hits with "This Kiss" and "Breathe."

Duets

She also has recorded duets with husband Tim McGraw, whom she met on tour and married in 1996. (She and first husband Dan Hill divorced in 1994.) The couple lives outside of Nashville, and Hill has spent the past couple of years largely out of the public eye. She gave birth to their third daughter, Audrey Caroline McGraw, in December.

"I've been having a regular life," Hill says. "Not being in front of a camera every day was definitely a change for me. I was working on this album the whole time, just at a less frantic pace than usual. Just having the time to really work on it made a big difference."

To promote the album, Hill is traveling to Europe, Australia and Japan, as well as around the United States over the next month. Most of the time, her girls go with her.

"The suitcases are larger and more plentiful," the singer says. "Anybody who knows traveling with kids, it's just hilarious, the things that you have to take . . . You don't know what you'll be able to walk around the corner and grab. It's like a traveling circus." *AP*

Dana Carvey, Jamie Lee Curtis in comeback vehicles

By Nestor U. Torre

AFTER co-starring with Dana Carvey in the "Wayne's World" films, Mike Myers became a major star by way of the even bigger and hotter "Austin Powers" spy spoofs. Sadly, however, little has been heard of his former screen sidekick's own starrers.

36 different identities

Well, not to worry, Carvey is bouncing back into the movie spotlight by way of his new film, "The Master of Disguise." In the outrageous comedy-fantasy flick, Carvey assumes 36 different identities and speaks 14 languages.

It turns out that his character comes from a long line of master impersonators who have been given a special power that enables them to instantly "morph" into any person they want to become.

Carvey's family stands in the way of a nefarious criminal mastermind who is bent on stealing the world's most precious treasures, so he kidnaps all of its members, except for Carvey and his grandfather—who then proceeds to train Cravey to use his power, in order to rescue his loved ones and to foil their super-nemesis' evil intent.

Will "The Master of Disguise" do for Carvey what "Austin Powers" has done for Myers?

Eighth sequel

Meanwhile, another Michael Myers, this time the notorious mass-murderer character in the "Halloween" horror films series, stages a scary comeback in the series' eighth sequel, "Halloweeen: Resurrection."

The film's story: For the first time, an ambitious producer attempts to revive the Michael Myers myth on TV with a new concept in reality entertainment that has some young adventurer spend a spooky night in Myer's house.

It sounds like a "fun" evening for spook enthusiasts, but they get much more than they bargained for: It turns out that the house itself is the cornerstone of the evil that Myers first unleashed more than two decades ago.

Young stars

"Halloween: Resurrection" brings back Jamie Lee Curtis as Michael's sister, whom he terrified into insanity in the first two "Halloween" shockers. The film also topbills young stars like Tyra Banks, Sean Patrick Thomas, and Thomas Ian Nicholas, and is directed by Ric Rosenthal, who megged "Halloween 2."

This time around, he propels the film series into the cyberspace era, because each of the young adventurers in the movie is given a video headset to capture and broadcast live his own shocking images of fear and mayhem.

Female spin

Finally, "Blue Crush" gives a female spin to the male-dominated sport of competition surfing. Sharing a beach shack in Oahu, Hawaii with her best friends and rebellious younger sister, Anne Marie (Kate Bosworth) lives only to surf.

They don't mind their having to work as maids in a luxury resort hotel because the humble job pays the bills, so they can continue to hone their skills as competition surfers.

The girls get a lot of razzing for "daring" to compete in a macho sport, but they plug on—until, on the day of the competition, they show their rivals who's really boss on the high surf.

"Blue Crush also stars Michelle Rodriguez, Sanoe Lake and Mika Boorem. Along with Bosworth, they had to train for many months to pass muster as champion surfers.

CARVEY. Master impersonator.

CURTIS. Spooky "Resurrection."

Maxene Magalona screams her heart out in 'Singsing'

From page G4

is much scarier, *mas maganda yung* effects." The movie opens on Oct. 30, just in time for Halloween.

Maxene describes her role: "My character's stubborn here—*asar kami sa* mommy *namin kasi* feeling *namin* she's *sira-ulo*. She's really not, she's trying to warn us about something. Railey Valeroso plays my boyfriend."

Any kissing scenes? Maxene smiles, "*Hindi puwede, e.*" In real life, does she have a boyfriend? "*Ayoko pang magka*-boyfriend. Studies *muna ako. Pwede naman akong may kausap—bawal lang yung masyadong* late *sa phone.*"

Is it her dad who will decide when she can have a boyfriend? "*Yung* mommy *ko, sa* going out *lang. Yung* daddy *ko,* sa boys. *Tapos* both of them *sa* grades. *Medyo seloso pa si* Daddy *sa* boys."

Studies

Maxene isn't one to ignore her studies in favor of boys or show biz. "I don't use show biz as an excuse to not study. *Pag nag*-absent *ako*, my classmates help me *naman*—when I can't get my notes, *sinusulat nila* for me."

She is currently in third year high school at the Montessori Integrated School of Antipolo. Didn't she use to be in Assumption Antipolo? "*Umalis na ako doon.*" Apparently a conflict arose when she was asked to appear in a Modess commercial. "I asked permission from the administration, *kasi bawal sa kanila lumabas sa* commercial. So I asked permission from them—my mom wrote a formal letter to ask if I could do the commercial, but they didn't allow it. But I still pushed through with it."

So, was it worth it to join show biz, despite what happened? "It feels good, I enjoy it. I don't think of it as work. It's play, *ganun*. And it gets more challenging. *Doon sa* 'Bahay ni Lola,' *medyo simple lang ako. Dito,* I have to act more scared, *ayun, sisigaw-sigaw.* In my other movie 'Anghel sa Lupa,' it's a little dramatic. *Sa* 'Mano Po' *naman*, I'm not sure yet *kung ano pa.*"

Her mom manages her career. Are there any disadvantages, having her mom as a manager? "Advantage *lang, kasi siyempre,* she's my mom, she knows what's best for me. *Hindi siya* boring *kasama*—she's like my sister."

Why is she the only one among her siblings in show biz? "Well, my younger brother Elmo does commercials. *Wala yung iba, kasi* they're shy. And Sab is into reading, literature. They have other interests." So she's the only one who took after her dad? "*Siguro*. But we excel in different fields."

Does she sing? "Not professionally." Okay, does she rap? "*Kaya kong mag*-rap, but I can't do it in public, *masyado akong mahiyain.* And I can carry a tune. *Pero ang galing ng* daddy *kong kumanta. Pareho sila ni Lolo.*"

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Maxene Magalona screams her heart out in 'Singsing'

By Edmund L. Sicam

MAXENE Magalona, 16-year-old daughter of rapper Francis M and granddaughter of movie legends Pancho Magalona and Tita Duran, is following in their footsteps—she's in the movies. And for this one, Regal's "Singsing Ni Lola," she's screaming her heart out.

Not a sequel

She was also in the top-grossing film in last year's Metro Manila filmfest, "Bahay ni Lola" (both films are directed by Uro de la Cruz). She's quick to point out that "Singsing" is not a sequel to "Bahay." "*Iba ang mga* character *namin dito*. I play the daughter of Gina Alajar and Joel Torre. *Ang* difference *lang*, 'Singsing'

MAXENE/ G3

MAXENE, center, with co-stars Glaiza Castro (left) and Railey Valeroso.

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Junior INQUIRER

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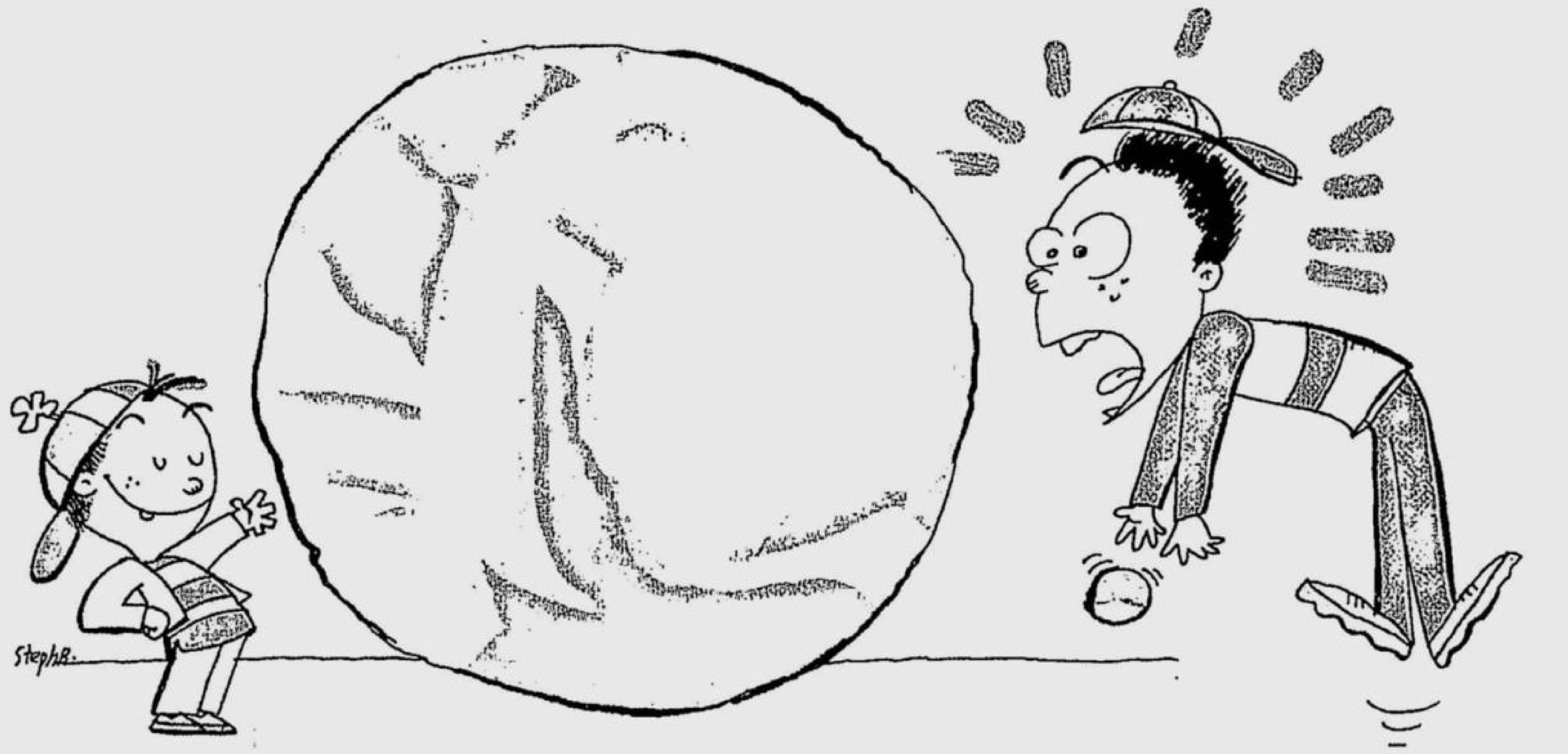


By-the-Tombstone Tasks

Things to do at the cemetery on Nov. 1

By Zobel Certeza, Margaux Ortiz, Eline Santos and Mae Astrid Tobias

IT'S ALL SAINTS' DAY *once again! Time to remember our dearly departed. Time, too, to wade through crowds in the cemeteries. What to do when you're stuck there for most of the night? JI's grown-up staff share tips on what to do when you get bored, or when you simply run out of ideas in the cemetery.*

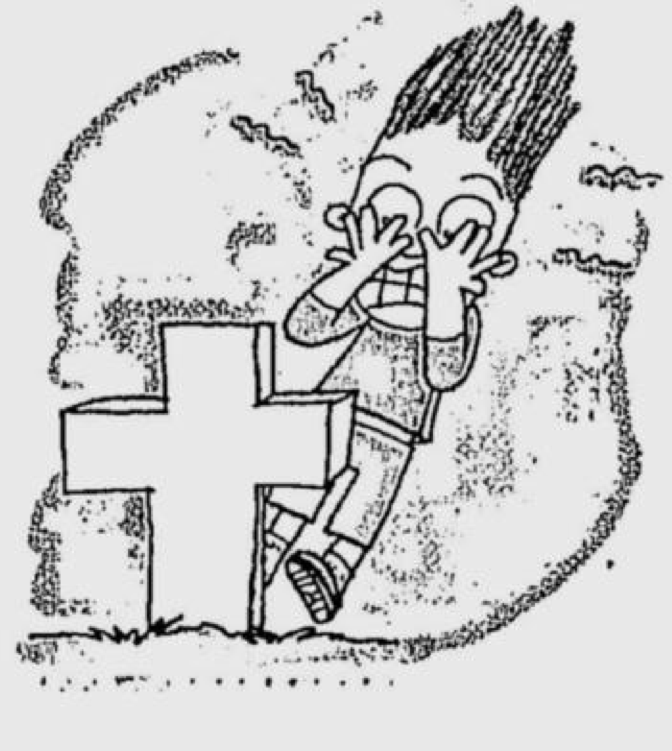
PRAY THE ROSARY. A rosary to remember deceased loved ones is traditional. Ask Jesus to send your love to those who have passed away. A sincere prayer can help you feel a relative's love even if the person is no longer physically around.

ATTACK D' WAX. Who can make the biggest ball of candle drippings? If you're tired of the shape, take a piece of paper and tape it into a cone-shape. Slowly fill it with melted wax.

DAD WAS A KID. Have a chat with your Lolos and Lolas. Ask them what your mom and your dad were like when they were your age. Find out if they were naughty or nice.

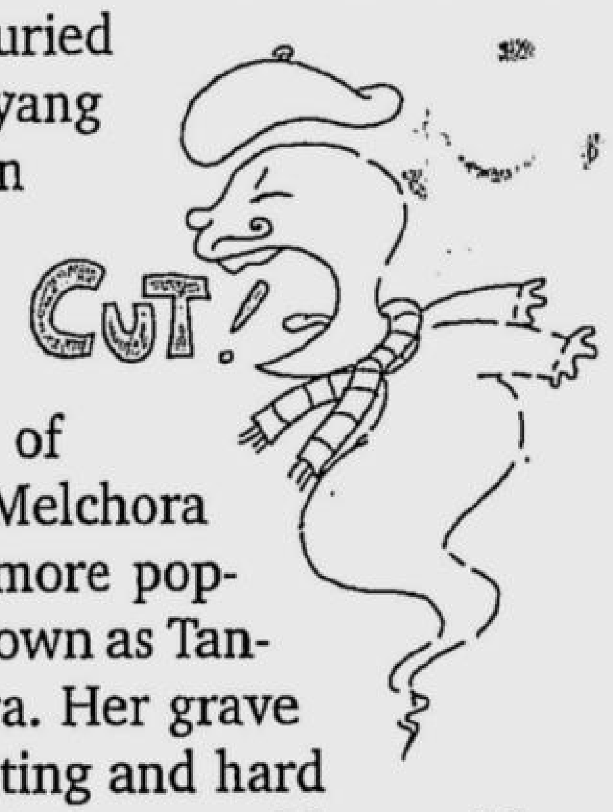
DEADRINGERS. Observe the pictures of the dead displayed around the cemetery. You'll never know, the stranger asking you for directions might look like the one on the pictures!!! Ngi!

PINSAN! Play the "same surname hunt." Look for tombstones with the same surnames as yours. It's a fun way to discover possible relatives and find out how common or unique your family name is.



ALL BY MYSELF. Pray for a lonely tombstone. Some people are just not lucky enough to have relatives who remember to visit them.

FAMOUS & DEAD. One famous person buried in Himlayang Pilipino in Tandang Sora, Quezon City is, of course, Melchora Aquino, more popularly known as Tandang Sora. Her grave is interesting and hard to miss. It has a tableau of her heroic acts which serves as one of the cemetery landmarks.



OLDEST, YOUNGEST. You and your cousins can play a game finding the oldest and the youngest person buried in your cemetery by combing all the gravestones in sight.

By-the-Tombstone/ p. 12

World Scope

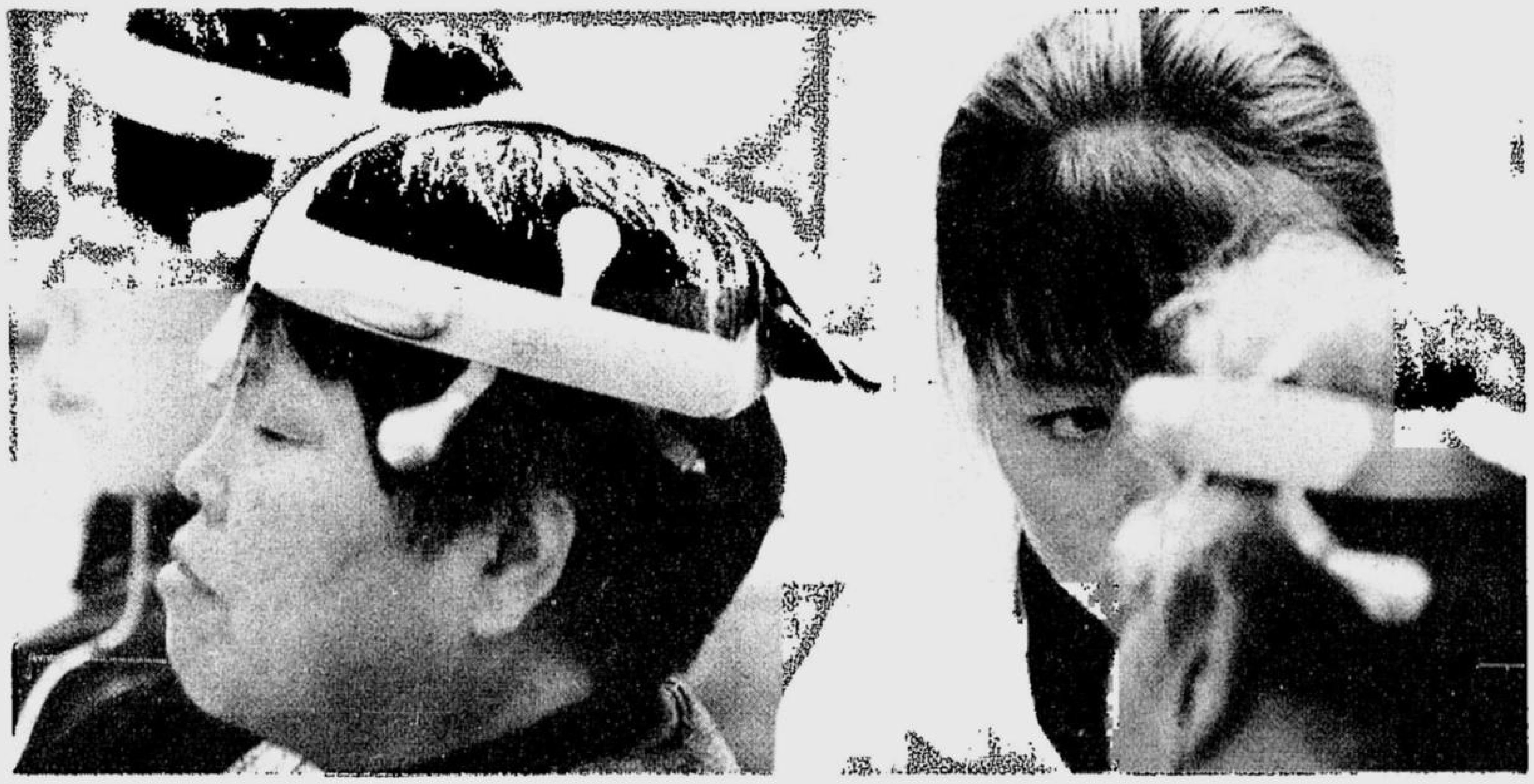
London, England
Beijing, China
Olney, Illinois
Nairobi, Kenya

Squirrels draw squirrel nuts

A WHITE squirrel munches on some nuts in **Olney, Illinois.** A rare colony of albino squirrels lives in Olney and the town attracted squirrel nuts from across the country to mark 100 years since the squirrels were first spotted. Retired zoology professor John Stencel says the colony of about 200 albino squirrels is one of three known in North America. They are all white, with pink eyes. *AP*

Mistaken Identity

"HEY! I may look ratty from time to time. But I'm not a rat!" If this water vole could speak, that's probably what it would say. It seems that the water vole is the victim of mistaken identity by people who mistake it for the brown rat. Wildlife campaigners are warning pest controllers, builders and developers to leave them alone as they are the **United Kingdom's** fastest declining mammal. *AP*

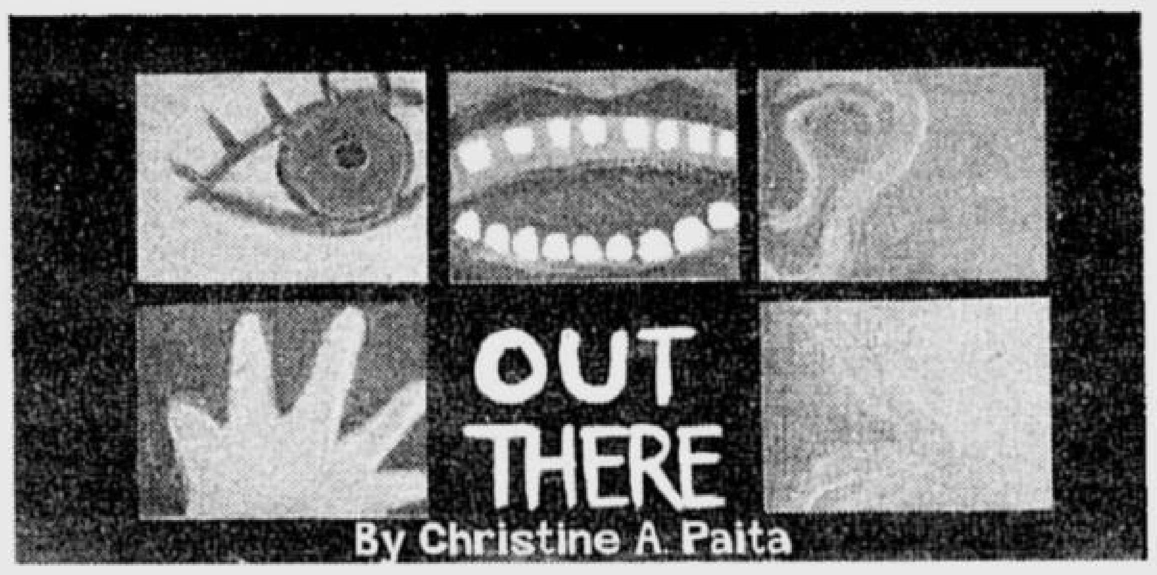


Brain cells, do you read me?

WHOA! Funky-looking head gear. Elderly Chinese try out a new apparatus claimed by the manufacturer to increase brain activity during an outdoor fair at a park in **Beijing.** The event marked a traditional festival for elderly people in China called "Chong Yang Jie." China plans to set up a nationwide network of community-based health services to provide urban residents, especially the elderly, with convenient and affordable health care. *Reuters*

Jolie's Cause

SHE was a do-gooder in "Tomb Raider" and in real life, US actress Angelina Jolie does good, too. In this photo, the young UN goodwill ambassador speaks to the press in **Nairobi** after she visited the Kakuma refugee camp, in the northwest of Kenya. The camp currently hosts 80,000 refugees. Jolie said the world's rich nations should spend far more to help refugees across the world. *AFP*



Got something for Out There? Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Events

HALLOWEEN PARTY. Come to Santuario de San Antonio Parish Hall on Monday, Oct. 28, at 2:30 p.m. Watch Jeff Simon's World of Magic and have fun **trick or treating**! It's a Halloween Party with Sacred Heart School-Forbes Park and Enchanted Kingdom. There will also be mascot appearances and lots of goodies. For inquiries and tickets, call 840-5493 or 840-2632 or visit Sacred Heart School at the 2nd Level, San Antonio Plaza Arcade, McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City.

SPOOKY FUN. Come to Outlet Yard on Oct. 27 for a spooky fun Halloween! There will be a **Mask Making Workshop** at 2 p.m. and free Halloween costume party at 3 p.m. Kids can also enjoy lots of games and a traditional Trick-or-Treat! Prizes will be given for Best Pet Look-alike, Best Spooky Character, Most Creative and Original Costume and The Best Mother/Father and Child Costume. The Outlet Yard is located at Quezon Ave., near National Bookstore. For more info, call 373-3528.

Contest

ANGELICA'S COSTUME. Can you create a Halloween costume for Rugrats' Angelica? In one paragraph, describe what costume Angelica can wear this Halloween and send your suggestions to consumer_products@abs.pinoycentral.com. Write as subject **"Rugrats Halloween."** Don't forget to include your name, age, address, and contact number. Deadline of email entries is on Oct. 31. The top 3 kids to give unique and **outrageous suggestions** will win special Rugrats gift packs!

Workshops

JOLLIBEE WORKSHOPS. Learn to make **Halloween crafts** at a Jollibee branch nearest you! Check out the following workshops: Halloween Ceramic Kit (Witch, Pumpkin)—Grand Central, 10-12 a.m.; Halloween Pumpkin Kit—Sta. Lucia East Phase 1, 1-3 p.m.; Glow in the Dark—Kalookan-LRT, 10-12 a.m.; Popstrap Bracelet—Royal Family Mall, 10-12 a.m.; and Halloween Pumpkin Kit—Robinson's Metro East, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. The workshops include games, prizes and freebies, a mascot show, and other surprises! For more info, call Ghem, Ana or Joy at 363-4690 or 363-7659. Or email eserrano@info.com.ph.

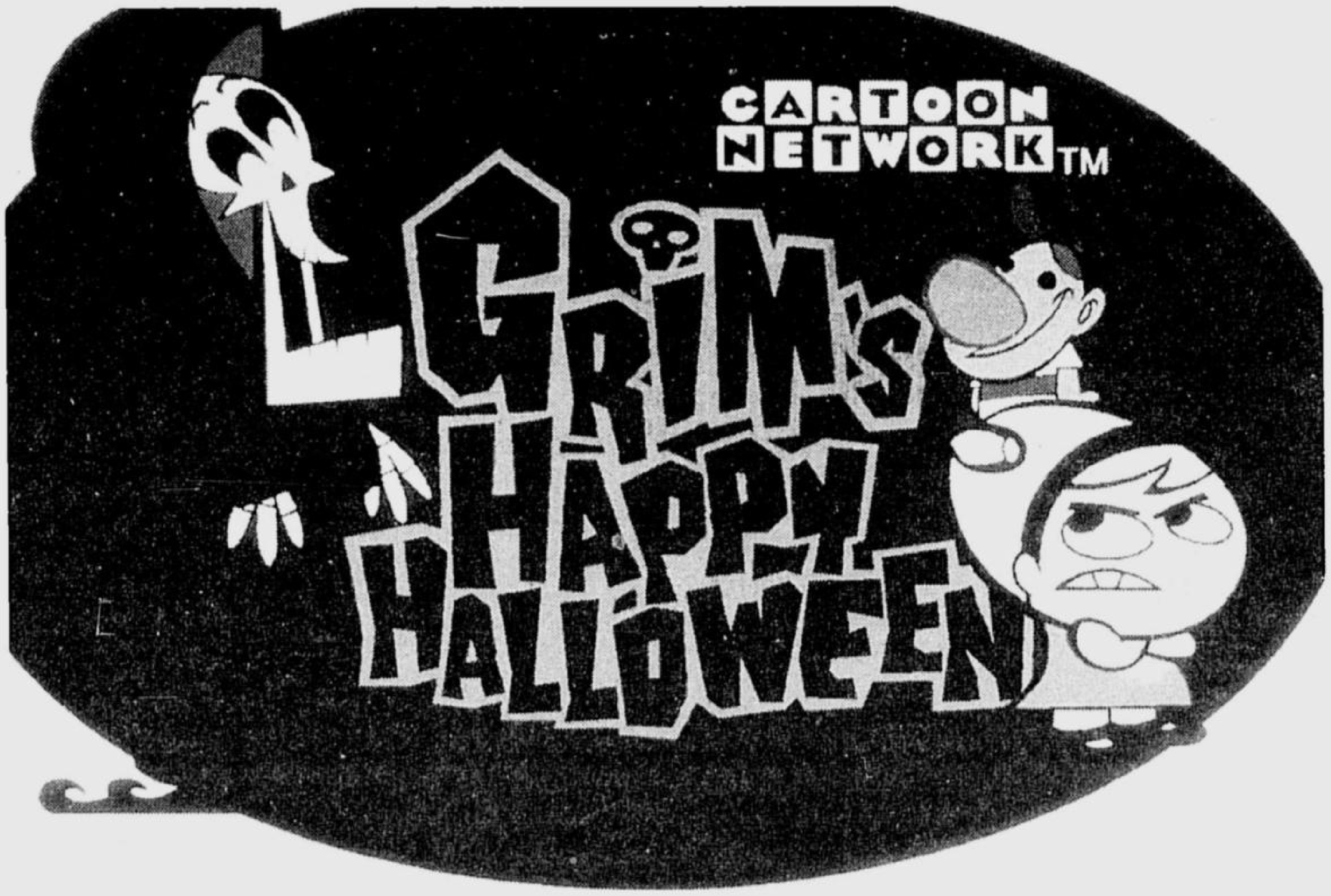
TAEKWONDO. Learn the basics of **taekwondo and karatedo** at Gym Plus. Classes for taekwondo are held every Saturday and Sunday, from 10-12 a.m., while karatedo is taught on Saturdays, 12-4 p.m. and Sundays, 2-5 p.m. Gym Plus is located at the following malls: Starmall, Edsa, Mandaluyong City; Metropolis Star in Alabang, Muntinlupa City; and Mstar in Las Piñas. For more info, call 543-3927.

YOUNGSTERS display basic taekwondo.

Cable Picks

HAPPY HALLOWEEN. Celebrate Halloween with Cartoon Network's popular skeleton, the Grim Reaper. Grim as super host will present a one-and-a-half hour marathon of his show, **"The Grim Adventures of Billy and Mandy"** on Oct. 31, 5:30 to 10:30 p.m. Grim is best friends with a goofy boy called Billy and an opinionated little girl named Mandy. Together, they embark on different adventures in their town Endville. Don't miss this Halloween treat!

WILDLIFE RESCUE. Watch stories of modern-day heroes who rescue unique animals in **"Wildlife Rescue,"** airs Monday to Thursday, from Oct. 28 to 31 at 9 p.m. on National Geographic Channel. On Oct. 28, find out how once-captive chimpanzees were rescued from destruction in **"Chimpanzees: Return to the Forest."** On Oct. 29, learn about orangutan culture in the forests of Borneo in **"The Disenchanted Forest."** On Oct. 30, travel from Australia to Indonesia and learn more about **"The Mighty Civet."** And on Oct. 31, witness the extraordinary tale of survival of two marine mammals in **"Whale Rescue."**



CAMPUS
NEWS

Any news from YOUR SCHOOL?

Young campus journalists can fax their typewritten articles to JI at 897-4793 up to 94. Include your name, school and contact number and be sure to write ATTENTION: JUNIOR INQUIRER on top of your article. See YOUR news articles on the Junior Inquirer!

Baby Maroons win UAAP at last

By Ma. Emille S. Dela Cruz
UP Integrated School

IT SEEMED like a dream. The timer flashed. The buzzer rang the end of the game and the UP Integrated School team poured on to the court. The UP community which had been cheering from the bleachers were stunned silent for a moment.

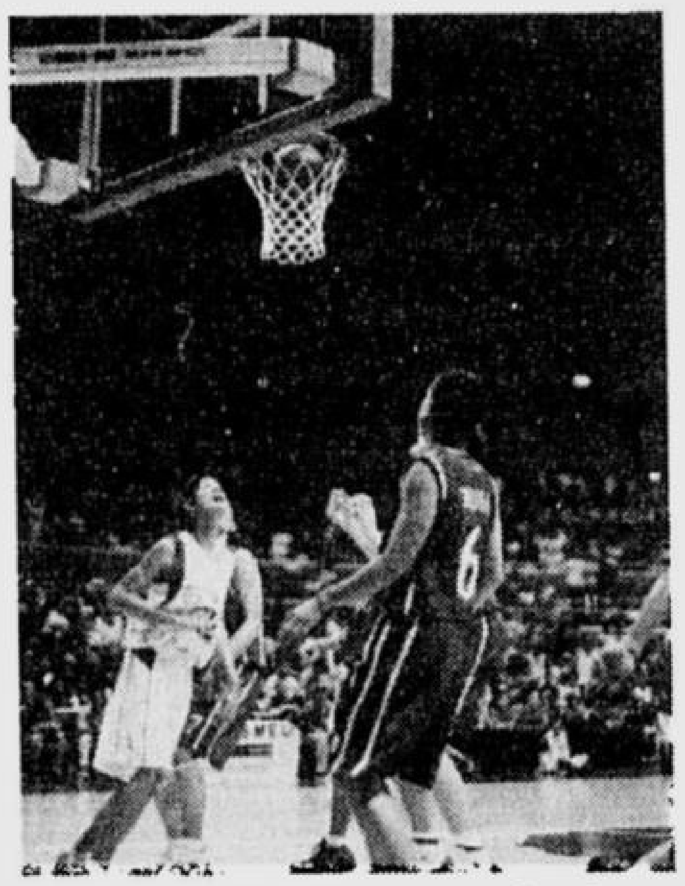
But after a few seconds came an eruption of cheers, screams and bursts of uncontrolled sobbing. As the UPIS Junior Fighting Maroons saluted the crowd, "UP Naming Mahal" began to play. It was the first UAAP victory for the Baby Maroons who have had a reputation as the league's favorite whipping boys. The team surprised everybody—even the school itself—when they began to rack up unprecedented victories against the other member schools of the University Athletic Association of the Philippines during the elimination rounds.

When the Baby Maroons passed through the semis and found itself face to face against Ateneo's Blue Eaglets, the excitement grew and the school moved behind the Maroons 100 percent.

Chris Villanueva, a member of the team, had this to say, "The cheering really helped us. Before, it was so quiet, just us playing. When someone cheered us, *nakakagana*."

During the first game of their best-of-three, practically all of UPIS' Grades 7 to 10 were present. The cheers of the boosters and the PEP Squad must have helped a lot too. Though there was a smaller but no less than passionate crowd during the Sunday game due to lack of tickets, the Baby Maroons got an early lead and won the game, sweeping the championship.

"This is a breakthrough win for us. I would like to thank the boys for giving their best all throughout the tournament. This is all about hardwork," said former UP Maroon, now winning coach Lito Vergara of their victory.


IN! Maui Villanueva's shot gets in and he waits for the rebound.

FIRST WIN. The victorious Baby Maroons pose with their coach Lito Vergara and other supporters.

Said Marvin Cruz, one of the Baby Maroons' star players, they trained off-season for four hours in the morning and four more in the afternoon. Edgar Ordillas said dedication counted a lot.

Chris said self-confidence also helped them because they faced opponents who were so tall.

"So tall, *nakakasindak*!" added player Maui Villanueva.

This kind of discipline, teamwork, hardwork, humility and love for the sport helped make the Junior Maroons the team to beat in the next year's UAAP season.

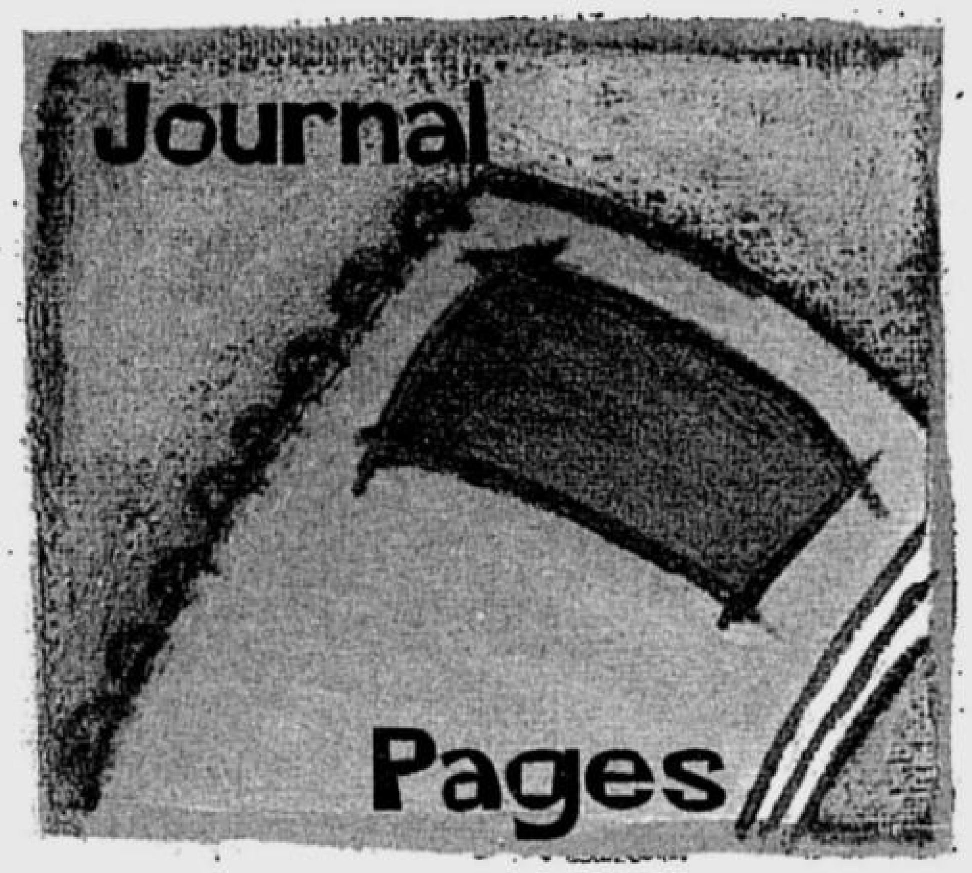
Excellent too was the support the school gave to the players. There was a time when UPIS was so used to losing in the UAAP that no one cared. But as the Baby Maroons won game after game, support came in bigger and bigger waves.

There was our inspiring Principal, Dr. Julian E. Abuso, who made it possible for the students to watch the games. Our reliable PTA and generous alumni were there. Support came from the dedicated drummers who determinedly beat battered drums to provide the beat for the energetic PEP Squad, who led the rest of the school in the cheering. Support came from all those students who made banners, maroon flaglets.

"I really jumped for joy when we found out that we won," said Prof. Gilbert Yangco. Recently, the UPIS held a victory parade inside the UP Diliman campus. Together with the basketball team were the table tennis team and swimming team who also emerged as the champions and silver medalists respectively in their games.

The UP Integrated School Junior Fighting Maroons are composed of DJ Miranda, Marvin Cruz, Jacob Manlapaz, Chris Villanueva, JM Aranas, Karlo Dalisay, Lemuel Midas Cancio, Edgar Ordillas, MA Gonzales, Ryan Maderal, Maui Villanueva, Roy Callanta, DA Olan, Francis Maniego, Dexter Oliveros, Earl De Peralta, and trainees Joshua Reyes and Marc Cabrera. Hopefully, they will propel UPIS into next year's championships. These people have earned a place in UP history, and students, teachers, the whole UP community won't ever forget the day a dream was fulfilled.

One Maroon's words sums it all up: "*Basta galingan*!!!"



Sports Reports

By Ernesto Macatangay Jr.
Ateneo de Manila University
Quezon City

ONE big fight! A victorious shout we Ateneans yelled weeks ago at the Araneta Coliseum. The Ateneo Blue Eagles claimed victory in the UAAP Season 65 after 14 frustrating years. I think they really did their best during the game against their archrival, the De La Salle Green Archers. The score was 77-70 in favor of the Eagles. That game was a very close fight. I also think that coach Joel Banal did his very best on his first year of coaching for the Eagles. Coach Banal used a very amazing strategy to win games. I also congratulate La Salle for doing their very best in that game. Would you believe that they had to beat the University of the East twice to go to the Best of 3 games against the Archers? I noticed that they had more teamwork and fighting spirit. That's why they won. My wish for the Eagles is that they have more championship titles. We Ateneans should always remember that "Win or lose, it's the school we choose!" Go Ateneo!

Sound Familiar ?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is ji@inquirer.com.ph Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!

Different Races, Different Cultures, One World

MAKING friends with different races and understanding each other are some of the factors for world peace. It's sometimes hard to make friends with people whose cultures you do not understand. All of us belong to a world divided into seven continents that contain over fifty countries each. How are we supposed to come together in times when we need to? That is the challenge!—**ALIZA P. CARONONGAN**, 12, South-ville International School, Parañaque, Metro Manila

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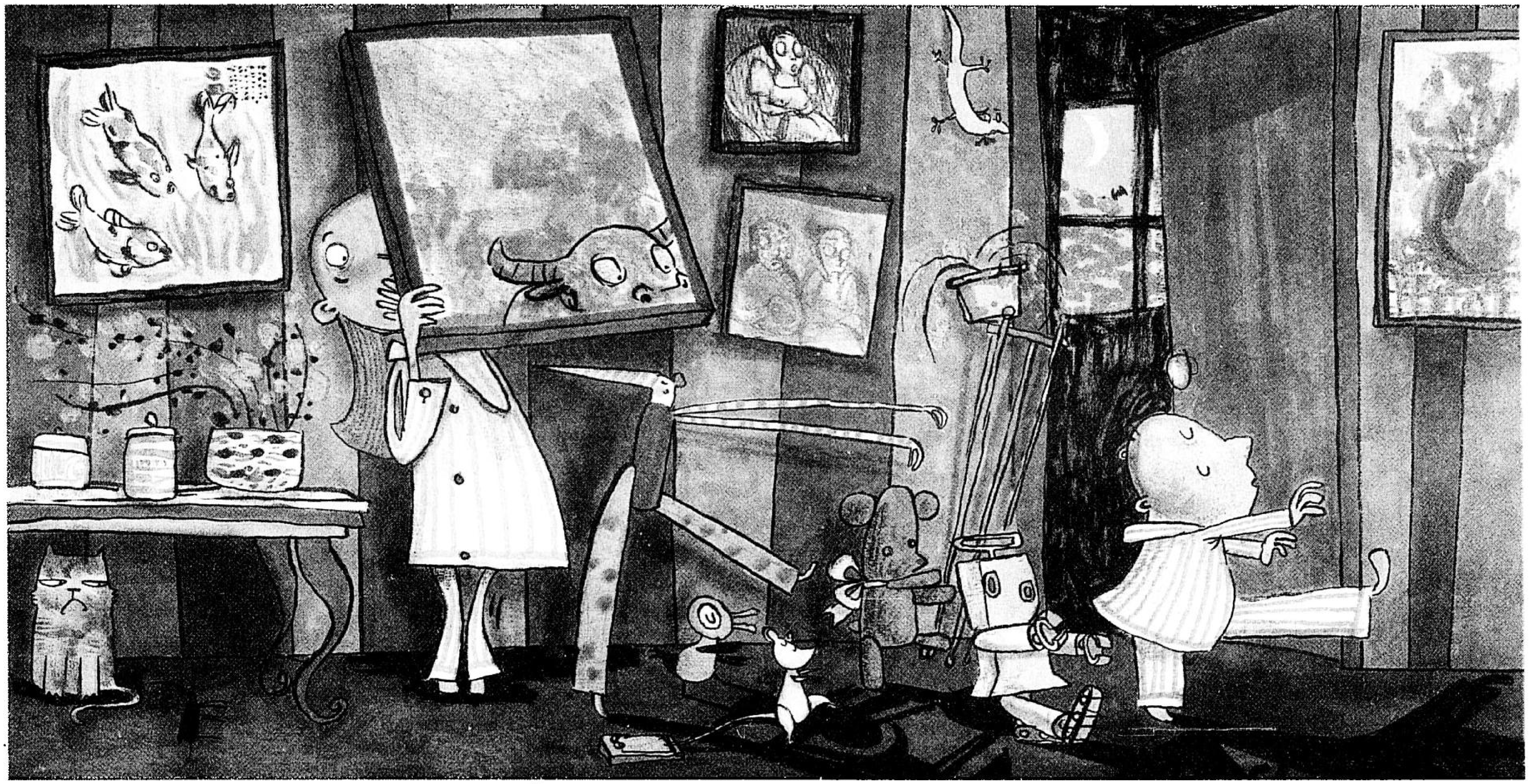


There's a Zombie in the House

by April Timbol Yap
Art by Jason Moss

IT WAS COLD that evening, unusually cold for that time of the year. Ella bundled herself up in a blanket as she tried to sleep. She was just about to fall into a slumber when a slow, thudding sound forced her awake. It was an eerie sound and she could feel her heart pounding. What was that noise?

Thud, thud, thud. Footsteps. In the quiet of the night they echoed loud and large. Thud, thud, thud. Was it a cat? No, too heavy. A robber?

Ella squeezed her eyes tight. She didn't want to see what was making the footsteps. She was hoping that her parents down the hall would hear the footsteps too and do something about them. But what if the thing making the footsteps did something horrible to them and to her 6-year-old brother?

Thud, thud, thud. What if it was already in her room!!!

She forced one eye open and looked around her room very slowly.

It was very, very dark. Like a cave. She could see strange figures lurking in the shadows. Was one of them making the footsteps? She took a deep breath and opened the other eye then gave a huge sigh of relief. The figures were just her clothes that she had hung on the chair by the door. But then that didn't explain...

Thud, thud, thud.

> "She would crush and rub the garlic on Mikey's bed to stop the zombie transformation. Once the spell looses its grip, Mikey would return to normal."

...the footsteps.

Ella took a deep breath and in one bold move leaned to her left, switched on her lamp, lay back down again, and pulled up her blanket over her eyes. As her heartbeat slowed, she lowered the blanket. Carefully she peered around her room. Near her door a small lizard took cover. At the foot of her bed she only saw her cluttered little dresser. She hesitated before looking to her right because there was a window above her bed and she was afraid that she would suddenly see a face peering down at her.

Thud, thud, thud.

No, the footsteps were coming from the direction of the door, not from the window.

Quietly, very tentatively, she put one foot then the other out from under her blanket and onto the floor. She tiptoed towards the door.

Thud, thud, thud.

It was right outside. her hands trembled a little. She turned the knob as soundlessly as she could. She pulled slightly and the door opened a crack. She leaned forward and peeped and saw a slight movement to her right. It was about to enter her brother's room! She flung the door open and was about to rush forward but had to stop abruptly because scuffling at Mikey's bedroom door...was Mikey!

Whew!

ELLA WAS so relieved! It was only Mikey! She laughed at herself. Here she was imagining killers and robbers when it was only her kid brother.

"Mikey," she said, "why are you still awake?" But Mikey didn't answer. He just walked past her towards her room. Something wasn't right.

"Hey, where are you going?" Don't even think of going into my room!" Mikey ignored that and went straight on.

"Oh no you don't!" And Ella dashed ahead of him to block his path. But when she saw Mikey's face, she froze. Mikey's eyes were glassy and he was just staring straight ahead. She realized in a sickening flash that though she was standing right in front of him, he couldn't see her.

"Mikey, what's the matter? Why are you looking at me like that?" she asked.

But even as she asked, something looked familiar about that unseeing gaze. She saw it somewhere before, in a movie. She heard about it in the stories their cook would tell about the undead who roamed at night, which is why kids like them shouldn't go out alone. Ella gasped and clasped her hands to her mouth to stop from screaming. Mikey was a zombie!

And just as that sunk in, Mikey did something that frightened her even more. He started murmuring. It was a low mutter in a strange language Ella never heard before. Was he casting a spell to turn her into a zombie, too?

She didn't dare move, didn't dare talk, hardly dared breathe. And as she watched Mikey, he started walking back to his room, murmuring, staring, not seeing anything. She kept looking at him, alert, ready to run in case he would suddenly come after her. But he just went on to his bed, lay down and closed his eyes. And just like that, he looked like any ordinary sleeping child.

Ella told her parents as soon as she got up the next morning. She didn't even wash her face or anything. She hopped out of bed, cautiously opened her door and looked toward Mikey's room. His door was closed. She hurriedly trotted down the stairs, straight to the kitchen where she knew her parents were having coffee.

"Mama! Papa! There's something wrong with Mikey!"

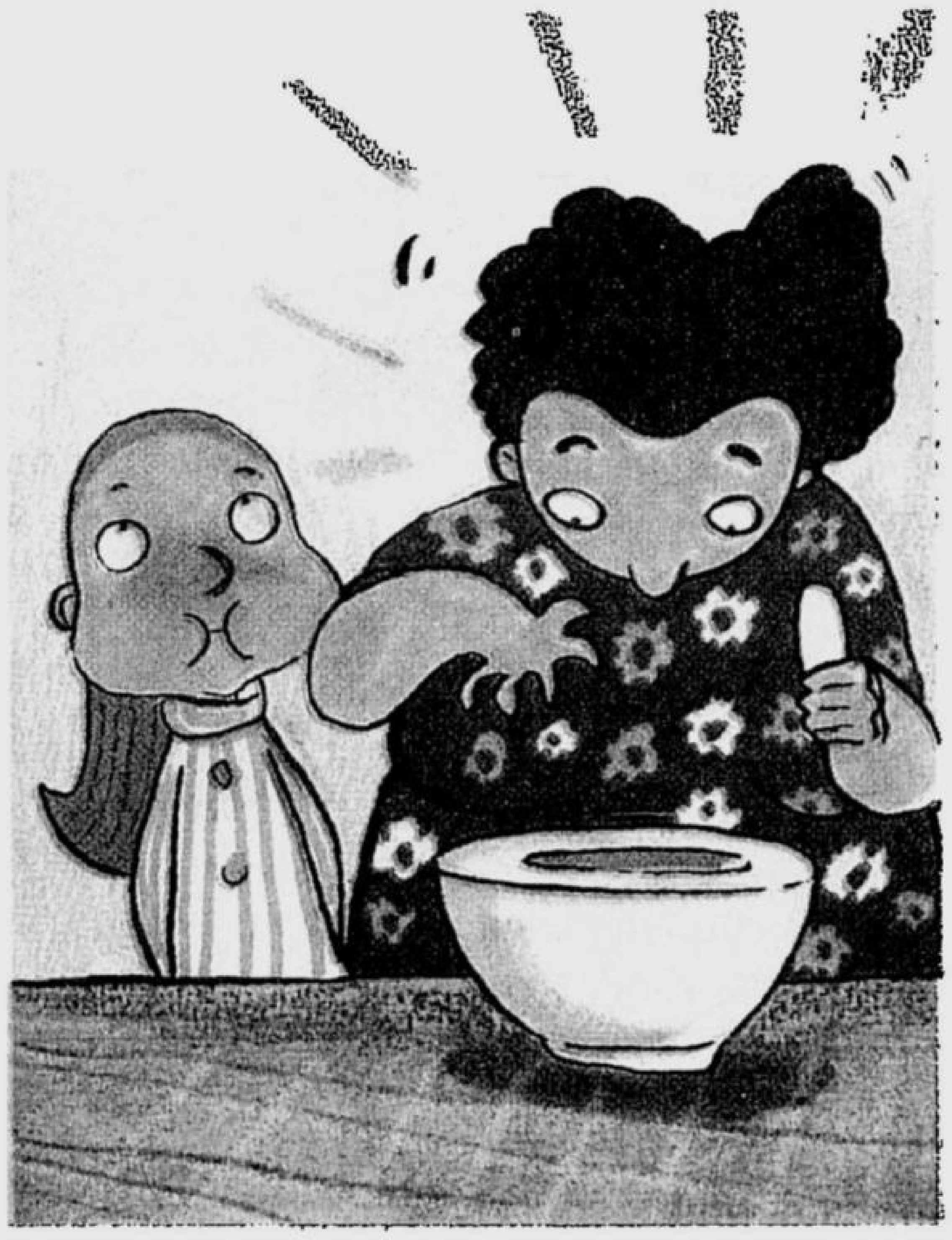
"What hija?" her mama asked.

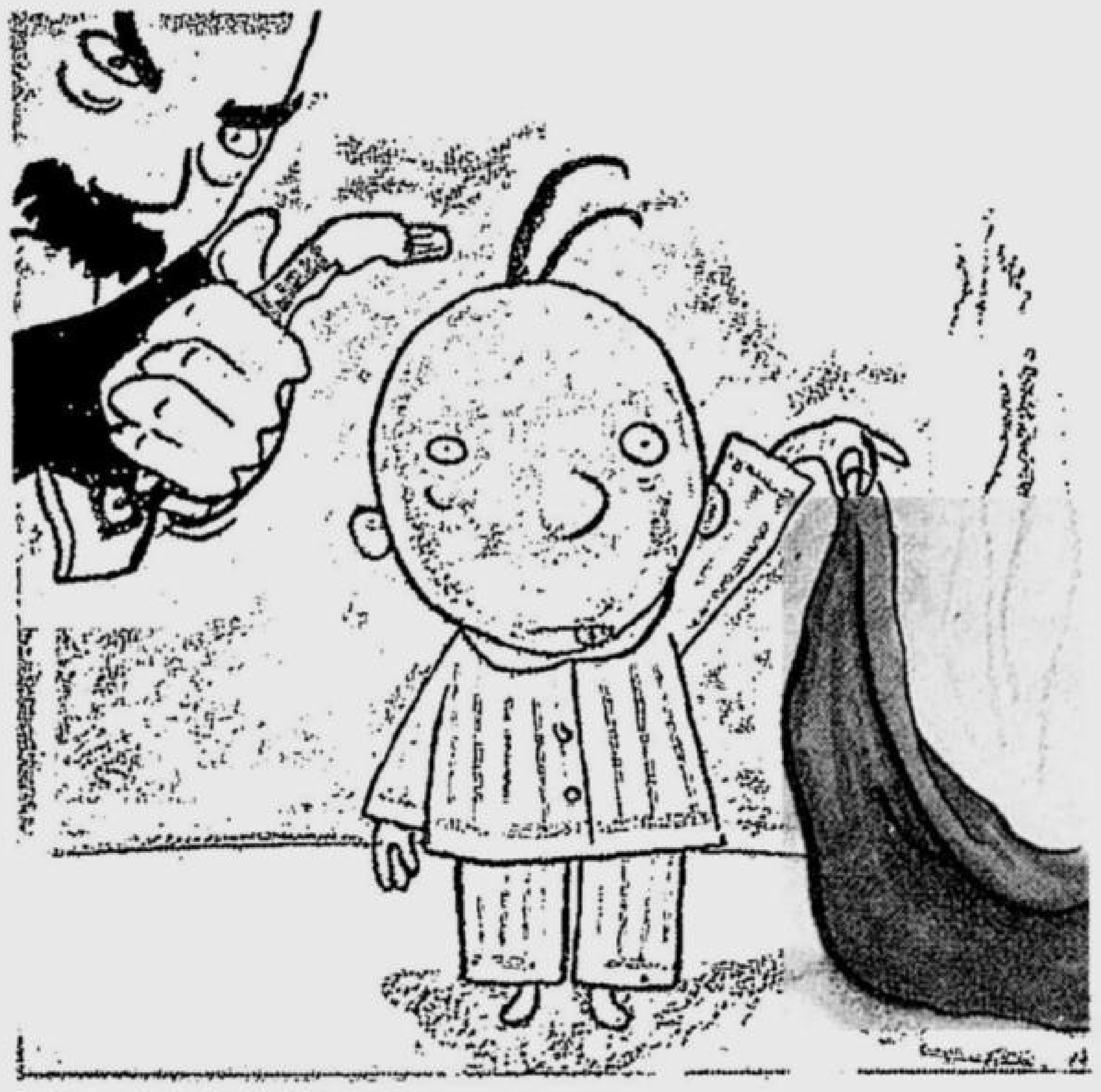
"He's a zombie!"

Both Ella's parents just looked at her for a moment, then her Papa said, "OK."

"Ok?!?! How can it be ok that Mikey is a zombie?"

"Well, what makes you think that?" her Mama asked, and Ella told them everything that happened the night before.





"Hmmm," her mama and papa said. Ella waited for them to say more, to plan their course of action. But that was all they said.

Ella knew that she had to take matters into her own hands. Her papa and mama weren't getting how urgent this all was. Any night now they could be made into zombies, too! She had to find a way to stop this!

During her lunch break at school, Ella went to the library to find a book that would tell her how to stop a zombie. She found a reference on night monsters, just the thing. She took it from the shelf and read eagerly.

The main thing she needed was garlic. Lots of it. She would crush and rub the garlic on Mikey's bed to stop the zombie transformation. Once the spell lost its grip, Mikey would return to normal.

SHE NEEDED something to make the garlic into a paste so that it would stick to the bed. Glue, but that would harden too quickly. Hair gel, but she didn't have enough of that. After going through possible ingredients, she hit upon the perfect one: toothpaste.

As soon as she arrived home she got to work. She had to hurry so she could finish before her parents and Mikey got there. She got all the garlic in the kitchen and looked around for something to crush them with. She saw her mama's heavy cookbooks, so she got two, put garlic in between them and pressed down with all her might. It worked! She got some more and pressed until she had a nice big bowlful of garlic. Then she ran to the bathroom she shared with Mikey and squeezed all their

There's a Zombie/ p. 10

Kids Horrific

Monsters remember their childhood days

By Margaux Ortiz

THE sound of big grotesque wings sliced through the midnight air as unearthly shrieks announced the coming of what every kid's worst nightmare is made of. The big Balete tree looked more menacing than ever, and one by one the terrifying creatures of Philippine folklore gathered around their annual meeting place. They were there to discuss their plans of spreading fear and doom among innocent mortals on the creepiest night of the year—Halloween!

There was a solemn hush as the big *kapre*, the unspoken leader of the group because of his strength and size, emerged from the dark shadows of the Balete's leaves. He cleared his throat and waited for the chatter to finally die down. Then to everyone's great shock, a giant tear rolled down the *kapre*'s cheek.

"Tonight we will do something else for a change," he announced, wiping his face with his big hand and holding up his tobacco to shush the surprised ghouls. "We will do what those mortals do this time each year. We will commemorate the deeds of our loved ones who lived before us."

"But that is so boring!" the others protested.

The *kapre* patiently explained that it was important to look back and trace their beginnings. "It's the only way we could appreciate what we are now."

The white lady nodded in agreement. "He's right. I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for my lola," she recalled wistfully. "I used to dream of playing out in the sun like those mortal kids but she forbade me to do so, because she wanted me to have a successful career when I grow up."

She added that her lola made her use all these bleaching soaps and lotions so she could have her very white, almost translucent skin. "All this I owe her," the white lady said, smiling as she lovingly caressed her face and arms.

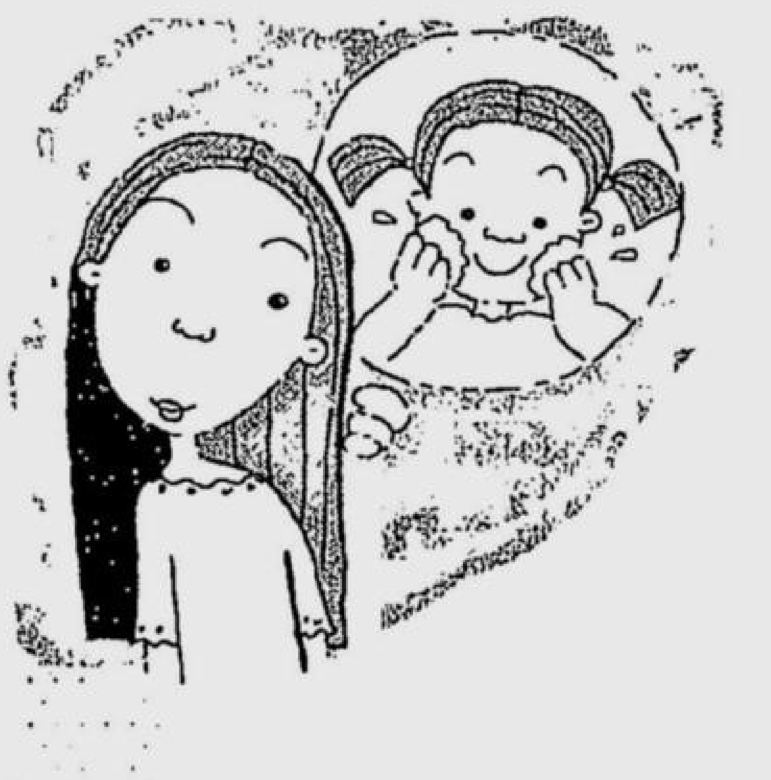
The *manananggal* shared her traumatic experience of being banned from the kitchen until she was of legal age. "I didn't understand why my parents made sure I stayed out of the kitchen," the half-bodied, winged creature said. "One night, I was lured by the delicious smells coming from that part of the house and I almost got burned to death with the salt that my father kept for experimental purposes."

Everybody chuckled as the *tikbalang* and the *tiktik* related how their older relatives gave them tips on how to stay out of trouble when they someday embarked on their respective professions. "I used to pick fights with other creatures when they called me horse-face," the *tikbalang* said. "But mama told me that I looked like a mutant horse for a reason, and now I understand what she meant by that."

The *kapre* looked around and was pleased to see the happy faces of his fellow ghouls. "I remember how I smoked tobacco secretly in my room so that *nanay* and *tatay* wouldn't find out," shared the big *kapre*. "Would you believe that they kept me from smoking at such a young age because it was supposedly bad for my lungs?"

The others raised their eyebrows in disbelief and laughed. "They said that one day I could smoke all I want and they wouldn't care, after all that was what my parents did for a living anyway," grinned the *kapre*, shaking his head at the memory.

The creatures continued to laugh, recall and share their childhood experiences, until they sensed that the sun would soon be up and it was time to go home. And so for one Halloween night, the world was safe from these frightening creatures who were also once...kids.



R U 'RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're 'Rrific' or know someone who is, fill out the the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces
cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a

FREE Junior Inquirer & CASIO EMI T-shirt, Plus! a chance to win a Keylighting keyboard!

Kids'r'rrific nomination form

I nominate: ____________________

Age: ____________________

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because: (Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

She/he lives at ____________________

and studies at ____________________

Her/his contact number is: ____________________

Sender's Name: ____________________

Sender's Age & School: ____________________

Sender's Address: ____________________

Sender's Contact No.: ____________________

Og Uhog
sa Lola ko!

JASON and Christine show off their yucky book.

JOHNNY VILLENA

Daring to be Icky

A writer and an artist present the first ever Pinoy children's book that says it's okay to be young, and, uh, just a little gross

By Eline Santos

A STORY of a snotty boy? Gross! But that's exactly what author Christine Bellen thinks is missing from children's stories.

"I saw in children's literature that there are many things not talked about. There were many writers exploring dyslexia, exploring cancer and how to bring these issues to kids. I wondered what I could write about." Enter "Og Uhog," Christine's entry to the annual PBBY Salanga Writer's Prize contest.

The story won honorable mention for Christine, a Filipino teacher at the Ateneo de Manila University. Lampara Books liked the story and decided to publish it. The book is set to launch in November. Christine even hopes for a possible 'Kadiri Ka' series that dares to tread the path of the yucky, the icky and the very, very real.

"I have a relative whom my lola used to call Og Uhog," Christine tells of the real-life inspiration for her story. "He was my mother's first cousin and when they played, he always had a runny nose. My grandmother would call to him, saying "Og Uhog, come here and blow your nose!'"

Jason Moss, the artist who illustrated Og Uhog, shares an even better real-life story.

"When we were kids, my playmates had marbles," Jason begins. "They always had beautiful marbles because they knew how to find them." As for Jason, any old marble was fine. But try as he would, he lost in their marble-games.

"One night I was getting really grimy—you know how kids can get dirty. So I picked the grime off my skin and formed a little ball out of it. I wanted to make a bigger ball of grime, so I set it aside. After a month of this, I had a grime ball the size of a regular marble!"

Ewww…

And he brought his one-of-a-kind marble to show his playmates. "Wow, it's black!" Jason's playmates were amazed.

"That time, no black marbles were available from stores. My marble was black, but it also had the color of snot. It was also kind of olive and looked somewhat like (bleep!)" Jason says. "My playmates passed it around. I laughed so hard."

When his playmates asked him why he was laughing, he said, "Do you know what that actually is?"

"Yuck!" his friends shrieked. And they all ran off to wash their hands. Christine laughs.

Watch out world, this plucky duo is rarin' to cough up more funny, yucky, and icky stories. Enjoy!

Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, ***YOU'LL*** *get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate _______________.
He/She is _________ years old and
is my _________________.
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1)____________________;
2)____________________;
3)____________________;
4)____________________;
5)____________________;

My nominee lives a__________
_ ____________________.
Give him/her a call at ________
or send him/her an e-mail at ____
____________________.
By the way, I'm ___________
____________________.
I'm__________ years old.
My address is_____________
____________________.
You may call me at__________
____________________.

Thinkathon
BY JONG ... AMBRA

Monsters' BALL

WOULD you recognize these memorable monsters if they went "trick-or-treating" at your doorstep this Halloween? Happy h(a)unting!

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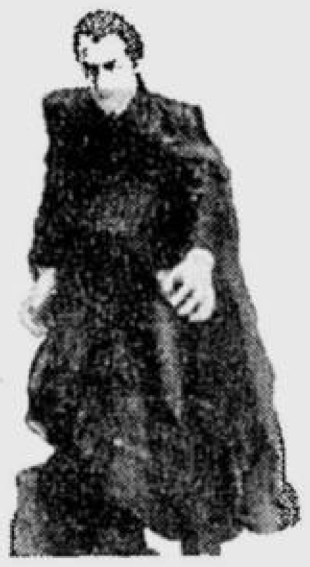

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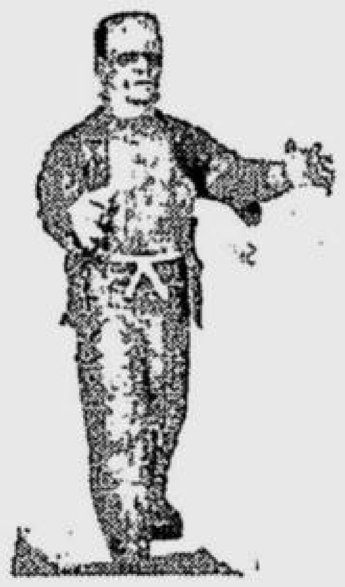

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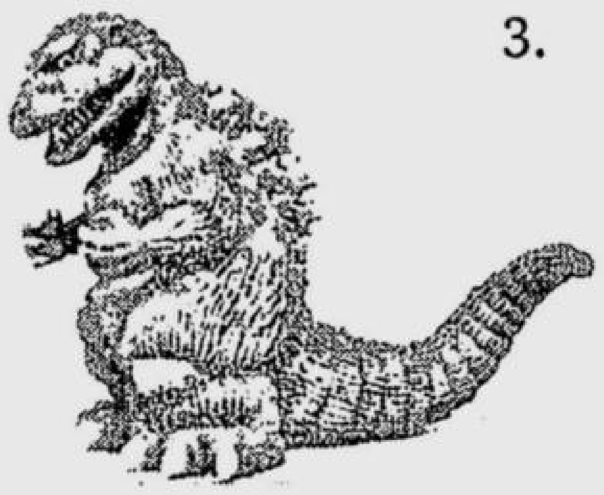

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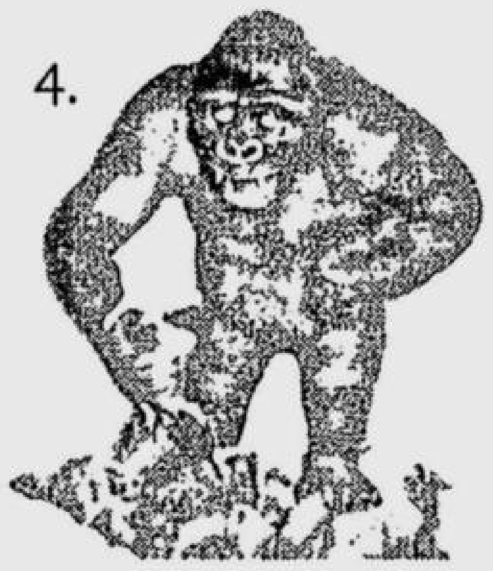

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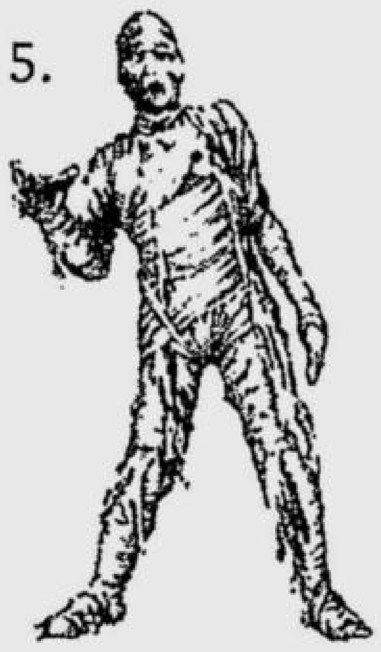

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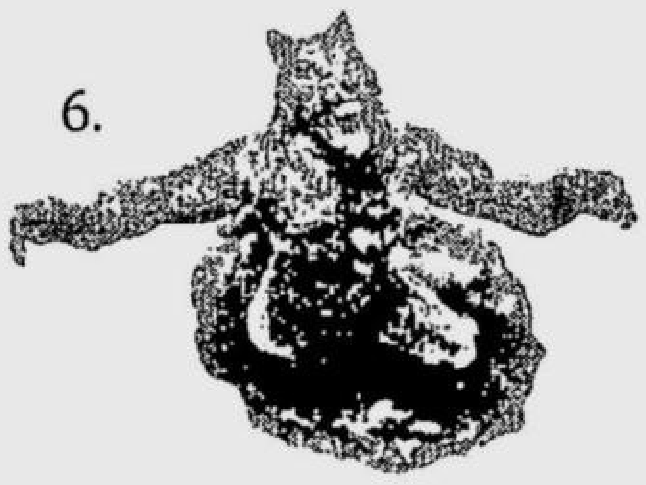

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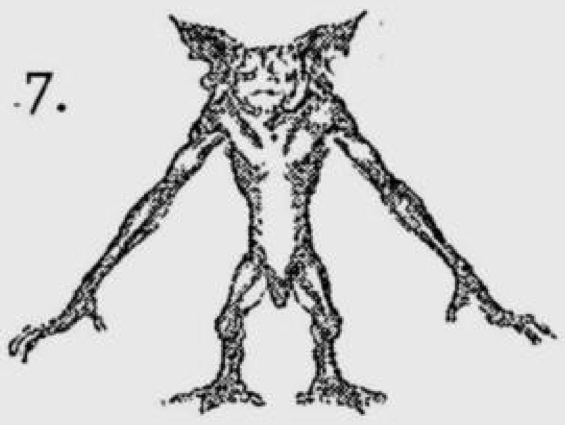

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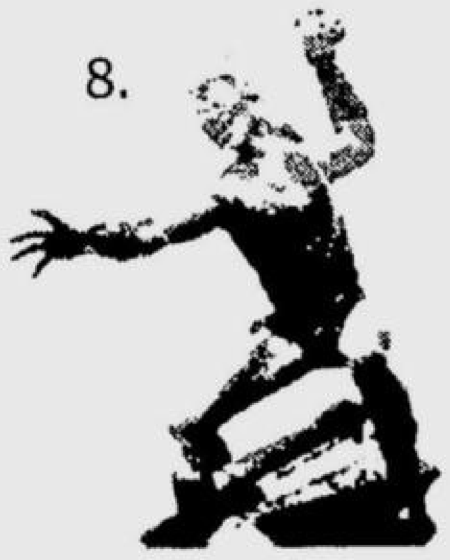

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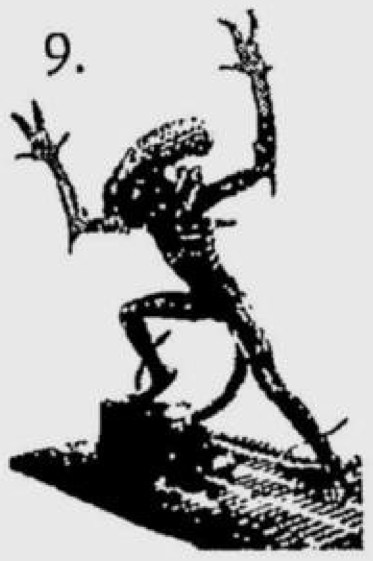

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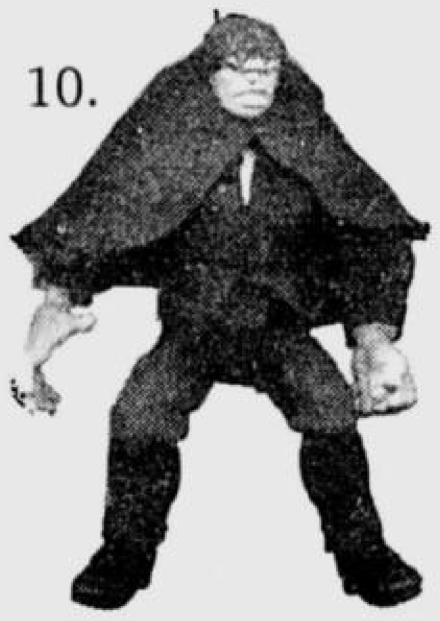


Answers:

1. Dracula
2. Frankenstein's Monster
3. Godzilla
4. King Kong
5. The Mummy
6. Werewolf or Wolfman
7. Gremlin
8. Green Goblin
9. Alien
10. Mr. Hyde

Ratings:

superbrain!

9-10

7-8

5-6

There's a Zombie in the House

(from page 7)

toothpaste into the bowl. It wasn't enough so she ran and got her parents' toothpaste and squeezed that in, too.

When the garlic and the toothpaste were blended well, she went to Mikey's room to rub it on the bed. But before she could start, she heard the front door. Her parents and Mikey had arrived.

"Ella! Come down and have merienda!" her mama called.

"Coming ma!" she would have to continue later.

"Hi!" she said casually as she walked in. They were at the table making sandwiches.

"I'll go upstairs and get cleaned up," her papa said. "I should be at that dinner meeting by 7. Why don't you tell Ella what happened today?" And he left the kitchen.

"Ok. Well, we thought about what you said this morning," her mama said. "And we asked Mikey about it, but he doesn't remember a single thing."

"What!" Ella shrieked. That was the worst thing they could do. Now Mikey knew that everyone had discovered his secret. What would he do to silence them?

Her mama went on. "We asked his pediatrician about it and told us that Mikey is a somnambulist."

"See!" Ella declared. "I told you he's a zom...what?"

"A somnambulist. That's the name for sleepwalkers. Mikey was walking in his sleep last night."

"Walking in his sleep?" Ella was confused. "How can that happen?"

"Well, the doctor said that it could be caused by being worried about some things—or it could be hereditary. But the point is, it's a perfectly normal thing."

"Normal?"

"Uh-huh," her mama answered. "Very. Many kids sleepwalk, and they behave just like the way you saw Mikey act last night. They stare blankly and sometimes mumble incoherently. They're not really aware of their environment so they can hurt themselves. The important thing is that they don't trip or fall or bump into something sharp. So the next time you see Mikey sleepwalk, you should just guide him back to bed and let him continue sleeping."

"So...Mikey isn't a zombie?"

"No dear," and her mama gave her a smile while Mikey made a face.

"Hahaha!" Ella started laughing. She was so happy! "Hahaha! He's not a zombie!"

Then in the middle of her mirth she suddenly got an anxious feeling. Uh-oh. Now what was she going to do with the mixture of garlic and...

"ELLA!" her papa yelled from upstairs. "DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL THE TOOTHPASTE?"

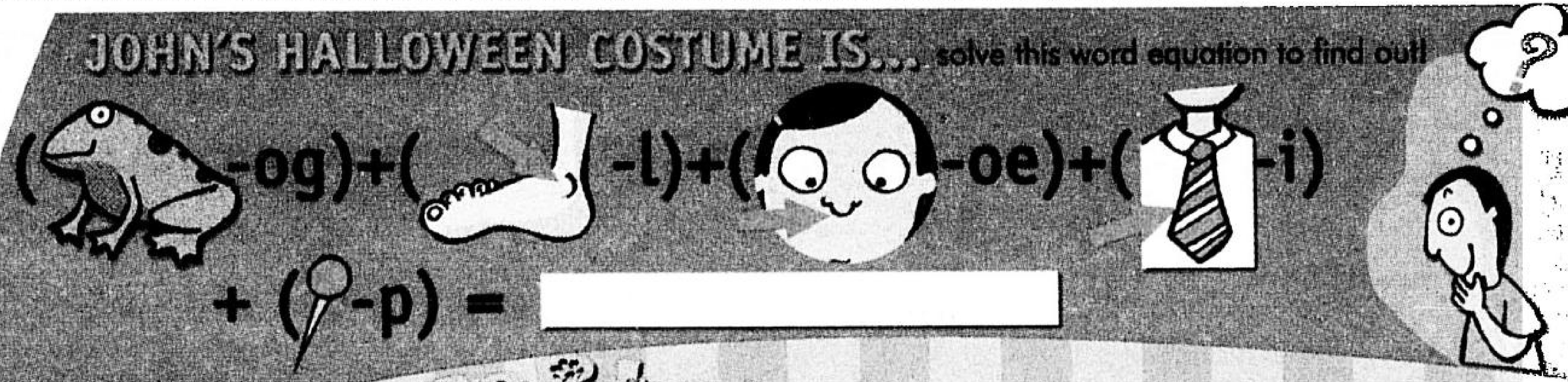
***April** teaches at the Department of English and Comparative Literature at the University of the Philippines in Quezon City.*

***Jason** is a full-time painter and illustrator. He is not a somnambulist like Mikey, but he talks in his sleep. Check out "Og Uhog," his newest book, at all leading bookstores. You may email him at jasonmoss@hotmail.com.*

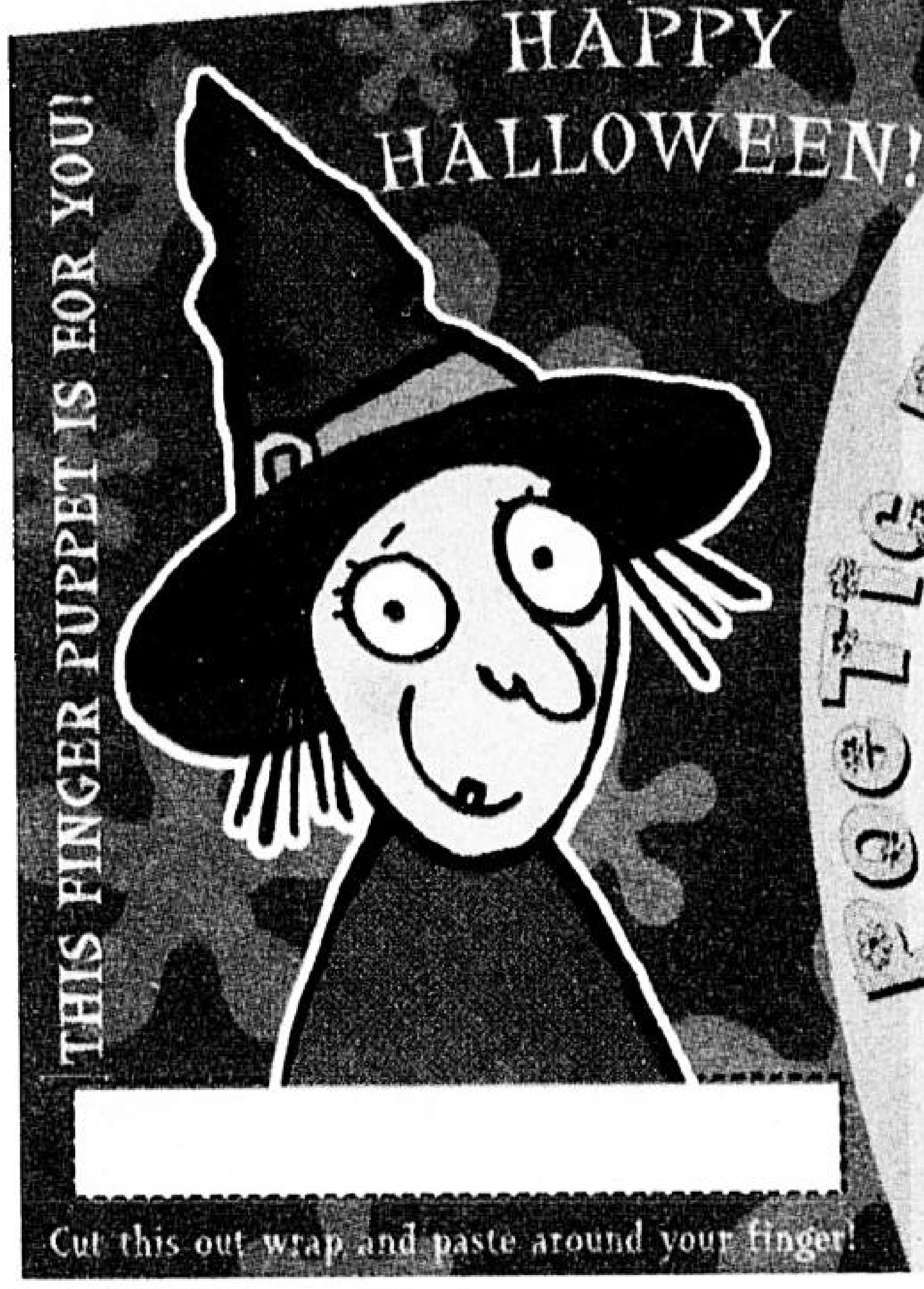
THE LUNCH BOX

by Katrina B. Villa

JOHN'S HALLOWEEN COSTUME IS... solve this word equation to find out!



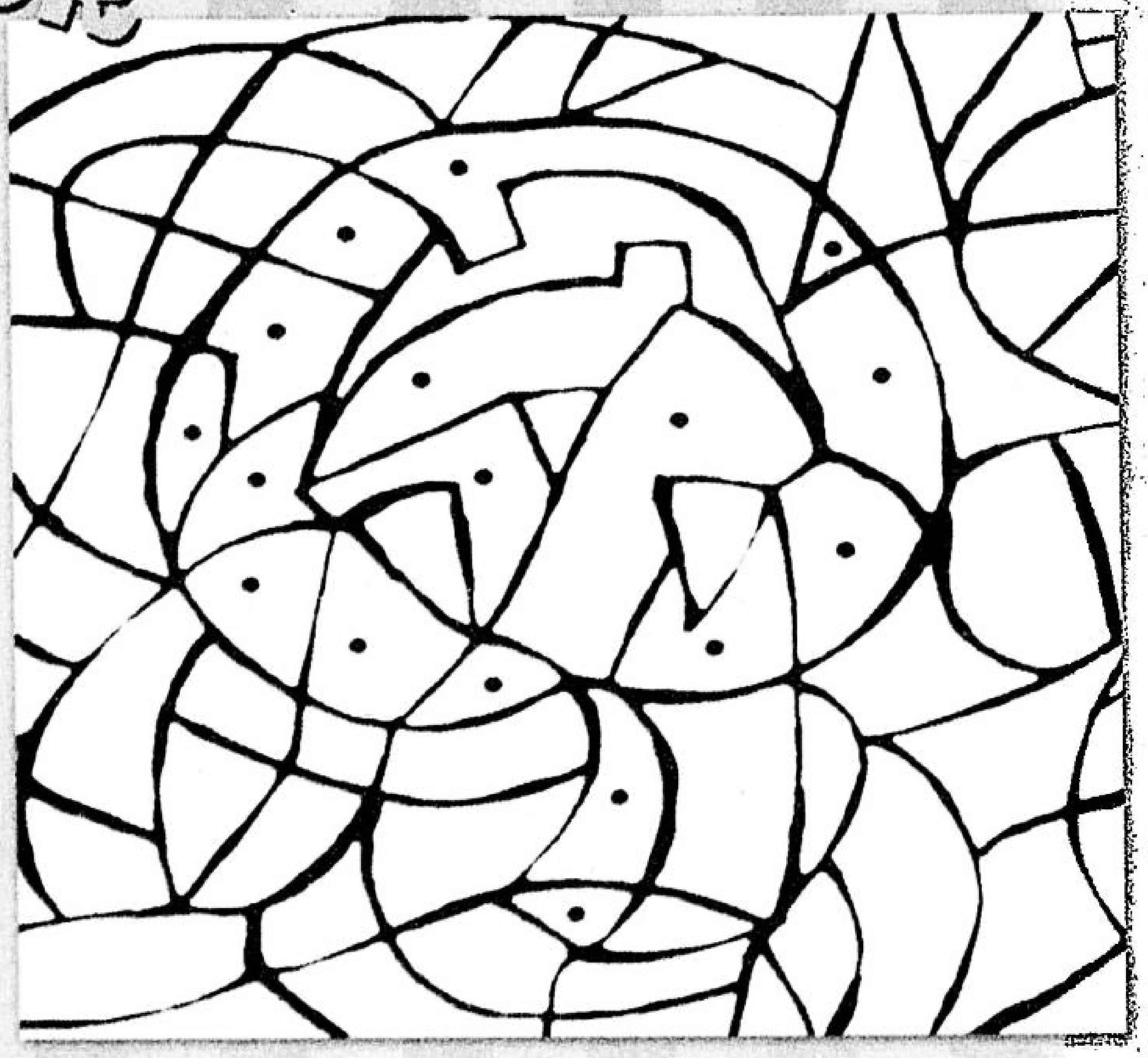
Answer: Frankenstein


HAPPY HALLOWEEN!
THIS FINGER PUPPET IS FOR YOU!
Cut this out wrap and paste around your finger!

Poetic Patty's Parlor

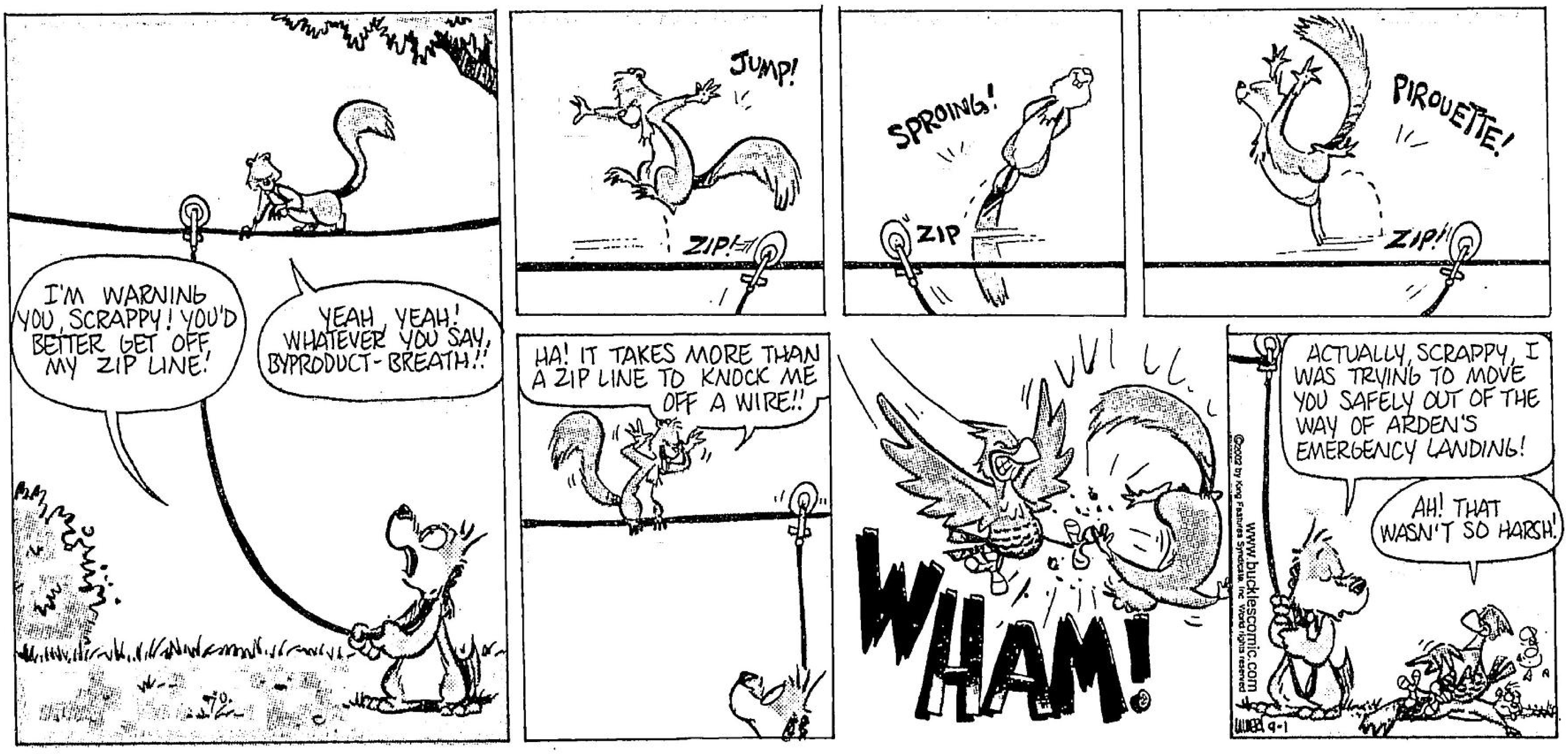
She smiles brightly
as I stop and say hello
I think she's glad to see me
Because her face is all aglow!

What did Patty see? Shade the dotted areas, turn the picture over, and see for yourself!



BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


I'M WARNING YOU, SCRAPPY! YOU'D BETTER GET OFF MY ZIP LINE!
YEAH, YEAH! WHATEVER YOU SAY, BYPRODUCT-BREATH!!
JUMP!
ZIP!
SPROING!
ZIP
PIROUETTE!
ZIP!
HA! IT TAKES MORE THAN A ZIP LINE TO KNOCK ME OFF A WIRE!!
WHAM!
ACTUALLY, SCRAPPY, I WAS TRYING TO MOVE YOU SAFELY OUT OF THE WAY OF ARDEN'S EMERGENCY LANDING!
AH! THAT WASN'T SO HARSH!
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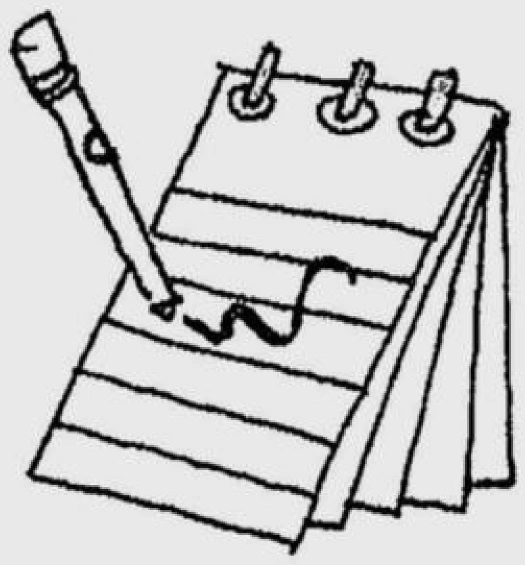
By-the-Tombstone Tasks

(from page 1)



It could get tiring but it sure beats sitting around.

THE FAMILY TREE. This is the best time to research your family tree. With all your kin gathered around you, don't miss the opportunity to ask about your grandparents or great grandparents. Who knows, maybe your ancestor was even a Katipunero in 1896.

Not at the Cemetery

SOME of you may not have any tombs to visit on All Souls Day (This is on Nov. 2. But we Filipinos have always started to observe this on Nov. 1, which is All Saints' Day). Or perhaps, you still need to travel a long way in order to visit your departed loved ones who are buried in faraway provinces. Don't worry. Since All Souls Day is a day of remembrance and prayer, being with your departed loved ones even "in spirit" may be enough to let them know that they are truly remembered on this occasion. Here are simple but meaningful ways to spend All Souls Day.

PRAY. Light a candle at your home altar and offer prayers for the souls of the departed, including those of your loved ones. A lighted candle symbolizes a lasting prayer.

OFFER FLOWERS. Putting flowers at your altar in remembrance of the dead adds a cheerful touch to this solemn occasion.

HEAR MASS. Go to church with your family. Make an offering for the souls of those who are no longer with us.

The real meaning of All Saints' Day usually goes unnoticed. But the Feast of All Saints is actually a day to remember those who are in heaven, mainly the angels and saints. Aside from hearing mass, this may also be the best time to know the name of the saint whose feast falls on your birthday, or the name of your guardian angel. Browse www.catholic.org or www.ajkids.com.

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